Labour Immigration into Assam report 1890 to 1895

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REPORT

151

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1890.-1895

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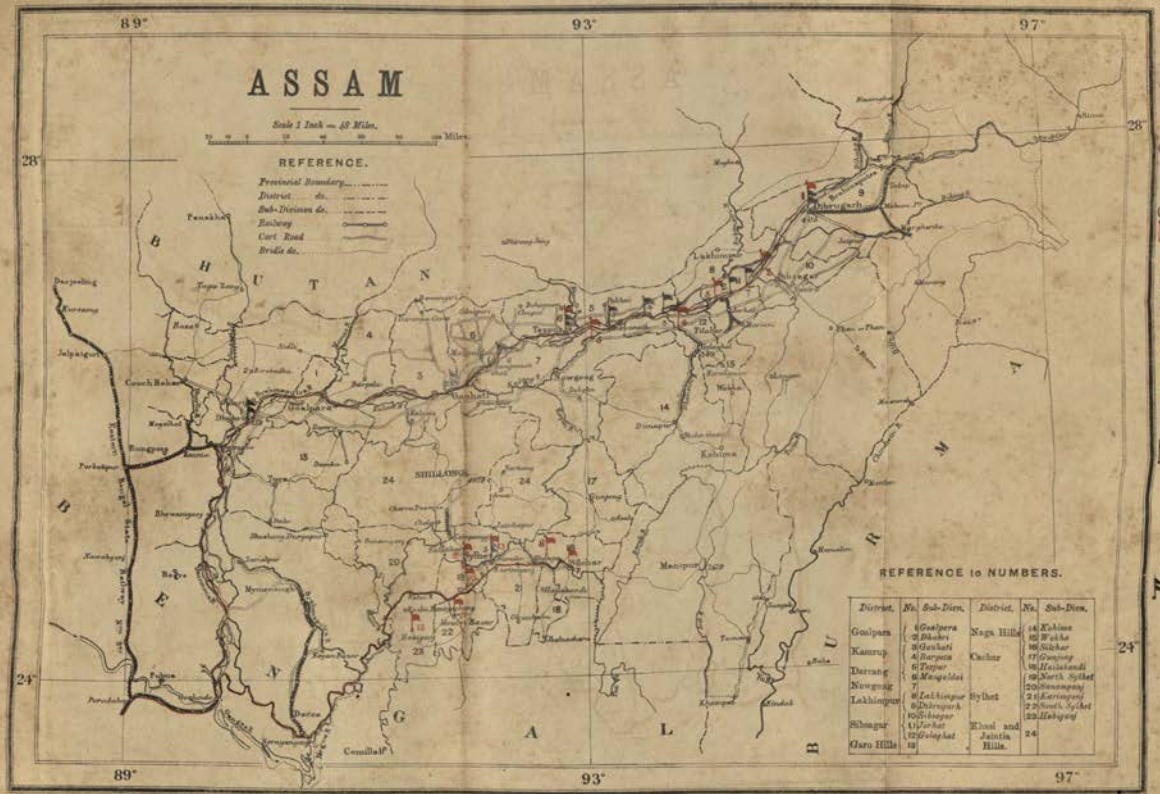
ASSAM
Scale 1 Inch = 48 Miles.
REFERENCE.
Provincial Boundary
District do.
Sub-Division do.
Railway
Cart Road
Bridle do.
89°
93°
97°
28°
24°
BHUTAN
BENGAL
BURMA
Darjeeling
Jalpaiguri
Cooch Behar
Rangpur
Purnea
Bhowanipore
Kurseong
Purkabari
Tezpur
Mangaldai
Nowgong
Lakhimpur
Sibsagar
Golaghat
Jorhat
Dibrugarh
Sadiya
Silchar
Cachar
Manipur
Kohima
Mokokchung
Naga Hills
Sylhet
Khasi and Jaintia Hills
Garo Hills
Comilla
REFERENCE to NUMBERS.
District. | No. | Sub-Divn. | District. | No. | Sub-Divn.
Goalpara | 1 | Goalpara | Naga Hills | 14 | Kohima
| 2 | Dhubri | | 15 | Wokha
Kamrup | 3 | Gauhati | Cachar | 16 | Silchar
| 4 | Barpeta | | 17 | Haflong
Darrang | 5 | Tezpur | | 18 | Hailakandi
Nowgong | 6 | Mangaldai | | 19 | North Sylhet
| 7 | | | 20 | Nowgong
Lakhimpur | 8 | Lakhimpur | Sylhet | 21 | Karimganj
| 9 | Dibrugarh | | 22 | South Sylhet
| 10 | Sibsagar | | 23 | Habigunj
Sibsagar | 11 | Jorhat | Khasi and Jaintia Hills. | 24 |
| 12 | Golaghat | |
Garo Hills | 13 | |
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(a) Viâ Kaunia, Jatrapur, and Dhubri.
(b) Viâ Goalundo and Dhubri.
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2 Desangmukh.
3 Kohilamukh.
4 Nigriting.
5 Silghât.
6 Tezpur.
7 Silchar.
8 Kaligora.
9 Sylhet.
10 Fenchuganj.
11 Moulvi Bazar.
12 Habiganj.
13 Karimganj.
Landing-places not being Depots.
1 Dikhumukh.
2 Komolabari.
3 Dhansirimukh.
4 Behalimukh.
5 Biswanath.
6 Rangamati.
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2 Gauhâti.
3 Tezpur.
4 Dibrugarh.
5 Karimganj.

REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1890.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

1. As the special triennial report on the working of Act I of 1882, which dealt very fully with the matter in its several aspects so far as this Province is concerned, is still before the Government of India, and no orders have yet been received upon it, the present chapter will be confined to an exhibition of the statistics of immigration during the year 1890, accompanied by such remarks as may be necessary in explanation of any noteworthy variations between the results and those shown in the previous year.

2. The following table compares the immigration of all classes of labourers into the Province during the past two years :

Provincial figures.

		1889.	1890.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ...	Sárdari adults ...	15,277	7,291	— 7,986	—52·2
	Contractors' adults ...	9,522	10,082	+ 560	+ 5·8
Non-Act adults		12,749	8,832	— 3,917	—30·7
Total		37,548	26,205	—11,343	—30·2
Children		18,110	9,875	— 8,235	—45·4
Grand total, including children ...		55,658	36,080	—19,578	—35·1

The noteworthy features in this statement are the considerable falling off which took place in immigration generally, and the fact that this decrease was common to all classes of immigrants except contractors' adults. As regards the falling off generally, various explanations are offered by the district officers, such as the depression from which the tea industry is suffering, and the consequent curtailment of garden extensions, the fact that abnormal demands for labour have sprung up in some of the districts of recruitment, which have had the effect of absorbing all surplus labour, and (in Sylhet) the gardens being already sufficiently well supplied with labour, and there being consequently no demand for additional labourers. The Chief Commissioner is not in a position to determine what weight should be assigned to each of these causes or to

any others which may exist, but it seems highly probable that the starting of various new enterprises in Chota Nagpur may have interposed unusual difficulties in the way of recruiting labour for a distant province. This conclusion is fully supported by the figures in the statement embodied in paragraph 4 of the present report. The fact that while the number of contractors' adults advanced by 5·8 per cent., sardári adults (Act) and non-Act adults fell off by 52·2 and 30·7 per cent., respectively, clearly indicates that for some reason or other the systems of sardári and free recruitment have sustained a check, and, bearing in mind that contractors' coolies are as a rule of poorer physique and less suitable for tea-garden work than coolies recruited by sardárs, the falling off which has taken place in the case of the latter is to be regretted. The Chief Commissioner cannot find any sufficient explanation of this result beyond what has been above suggested, and can only hope that the reason, whatever it may be, is one the operation of which will prove to be merely temporary. The falling off in the number of children naturally follows upon the decrease in recruitment by the sardári and free methods. It may be useful to give here the totals under each head for each of the past five years :

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Act adults	16,355	21,639	22,601	24,799	17,373
Non-Act adults ...	6,360	7,451	10,716	12,749	8,832
Total of Act adults and non-Act adults ...	22,715	29,090	33,317	37,548	26,205
Children	8,179	7,373	12,976	18,110	9,875
Grand total, including children	30,894	36,463	46,293	55,658	36,080

It will thus be seen that the total importation of adults during 1890 has fallen considerably below what it was in 1887, while, if children are included, the figures closely approximate to what they were three years ago.

District and valley statistics.

3. The following table gives the statistics of importations for each district of the Province separately :

District.	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1889.	1890.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1889.	1890.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1889.	1890.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1889.	1890.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1889.	1890.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	2,450	1,382	—43·59	3,227	1,450	—55·06	5,677	2,832	—50·11	1,385	591	—57·32	7,062	3,423	—51·52
Sylhet	1,193	702	—41·15	5,886	4,301	—26·93	7,079	5,003	—29·32	4,955	3,103	—37·37	12,034	8,106	—32·64
Total Surma Valley	3,643	2,084	—42·79	9,113	5,751	—63·10	12,756	7,835	—38·57	6,340	3,694	—41·73	19,096	11,529	—39·62
Kámrúp ..	286	227	—20·62	32	11	—65·62	318	238	—25·15	191	17	—91·09	509	255	—49·90
Darrang ..	3,775	2,733	—27·60	356	354	—·56	4,131	3,087	—25·27	2,033	1,176	—42·15	6,164	4,263	—30·84
Nowgong ..	1,425	931	—34·66	551	1,062	+92·74	1,976	1,993	+·86	741	425	—42·64	2,717	2,418	—11·00
Sibságar ..	7,210	4,961	—31·19	869	423	—51·32	8,079	5,384	—33·35	4,373	2,263	—48·30	12,457	7,647	—38·61
Lakhimpur ..	8,460	6,437	—23·91	1,828	1,231	—32·65	10,288	7,668	—25·46	4,427	2,300	—48·04	14,715	9,968	—32·26
Total Assam Valley	21,156	15,289	—27·73	3,636	3,081	—15·26	24,792	18,370	—25·90	11,770	6,181	—47·48	36,562	24,551	—32·85
Grand total ..	24,799	17,373	—29·94	12,749	8,832	—30·72	37,548	26,205	—30·21	18,110	9,875	—45·47	55,658	36,080	—35·17

It will thus be seen that with the solitary exception of Nowgong—and there only under the head of non-Act adults (in that district mainly Assamese)—there has been a decrease in the case of all districts, and under both heads of Act adults and non-Act adults. Comparing the two valleys, the decrease under both classes was far larger in the Surma Valley than in the Assam Valley. In regard to children, a more or less considerable falling off occurred in the case of every district. It may be noted as regards Sylhet that the falling off was entirely due to the figures for one subdivision, South Sylhet, where the subdivisional officer explains that the South Sylhet Tea Company have been recruiting only to a small extent, owing to inconsiderable extension and the existence of a full staff of coolies.

4. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the various recruiting districts :

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men ...	813	439	765	848	1,161	555	2,739	1,842
	Women ...	750	366	793	814	1,052	453	2,595	1,633
Total	...	1,563	805	1,558	1,662	2,213	1,008	5,334	3,475
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	Men ...	1,098	678	512	767	2,894	2,010	4,504	3,455
	Women ...	884	473	415	549	2,057	1,605	3,356	2,627
Total	...	1,982	1,151	927	1,316	4,951	3,615	7,860	6,082
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	6,219	2,561	3,609	3,308	2,193	1,017	12,021	6,886
	Women ...	5,374	2,489	3,382	2,843	2,100	944	10,856	6,276
Total	...	11,593	5,050	6,991	6,151	4,293	1,961	22,877	13,162
Nepal	Men ...	.....	1	.....	16	8	10	8	27
	Women ...	3	1	4	.....	4	12	11	13
Total	...	3	2	4	16	12	22	19	40
Madras	Men ...	75	158	11	552	276	345	362	1,055
	Women ...	61	102	9	355	257	383	327	840
Total	...	136	260	20	907	533	728	689	1,895
Bombay	Men ...	.....	2	.....	1	.....	2	.....	5
	Women ...	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	5
Total	...	.....	4	.....	1	.....	5	.....	10
Assam	Men ...	.....	.....	22	15	650	1,393	672	1,408
	Women ...	.....	.....	.....	14	59	61	59	75
Total	...	.....	.....	22	29	709	1,454	731	1,483
Orissa	Men ...	.....	10	.....	.....	19	24	19	34
	Women ...	.....	9	.....	.....	19	15	19	24
Total	...	.....	19	.....	.....	38	39	38	58
Total	Men ...	8,205	3,849	4,919	5,507	7,201	5,356	20,325	14,712
	Women ...	7,072	3,442	4,603	4,575	5,548	3,476	17,223	11,493
Grand total	...	15,277	7,291	9,522	10,082	12,749	8,832	37,548	26,205

This statement shows greater activity in recruitment in the case of Madras and Assam (and to a lesser extent in that of Nepal, Bombay and Orissa) and considerably smaller results in Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Behar, and especially Chota Nagpur. An explanation has already been suggested of these results so far as Chota Nagpur is concerned (paragraph 1). As in the preceding year, Act importations were chiefly from Chota Nagpur, while the greater number of those imported otherwise than under the Act came from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar. It is curious that the Act importations from Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar should have stood at exactly the same figure. The following tables show the relative order in which each locality of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations :

(*a*) *Act importations.*

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1890.
	Garden sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur	5,050	6,151	11,201
(2) Bengal	805	1,662	2,467
(3) North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar.	1,151	1,316	2,467

(*b*) *Non-Act importations.*

	Number of labourers imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar	3,615
(2) Chota Nagpur	1,961
(3) Bengal	1,008

It is noteworthy that, whereas the number of Chota Nagpur coolies supplied by contractors decreased from 6,991 in the previous year to 6,151, or by 12 per cent., the number of similar coolies recruited by garden sardárs fell from 11,593 to 5,050, or by as much as 56·4 per cent. Further, in spite of the general falling off in the number of labourers imported, Bengal supplied under the head of contractors' coolies 1,662, against 1,558 last year, and the North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar supplied 1,316, against 927. In all cases there was a considerable decrease in the non-Act importations, which fell in the case of the North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar from 4,951 to 3,615, or by 26·9 per cent., in that of Chota Nagpur from 4,293 to 1,961, or by 54·3 per cent., and in that of Bengal from 2,213 to 1,008, or by 54·4 per cent. In future reports, coolies from Behar will be shown separately instead of being, as at present, grouped with those from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Female immigrants.

5. The proportion of women amongst adult immigrants from the chief districts of recruitment is given below ;

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Bengal	47·9	45·4	50·9	48·9	47·5	44·9	48·6	46·9
North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Behar.	44·6	41·1	44·7	41·7	41·5	44·3	42·6	43·1
Chota Nagpur	46·3	49·2	48·3	46·2	48·9	48·1	47·4	47·6
Total	46·2	47·2	48·3	45·3	43·5	39·3	45·8	43·8

The decrease in the percentage of women amongst contractors' coolies and non-Act immigrants and the falling off in the general Provincial percentage among all adult immigrants are unsatisfactory features.

Contractors' and sardári coolies.

6. The following table gives the number of Act coolies imported during the past two years into each district, and shows the average number imported by each sardár :

District.	Sardári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardárs.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1890, as compared with 1889.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	Sardári.	Contractors.
Cachar	1,809	862	576	480	3·1	1·7	641	520	—52·3	—18·8
Sylhet	1,142	653	287	241	3·9	2·7	51	49	—42·8	— 3·9
Total Surma Valley ...	2,951	1,515	863	721	3·4	2·1	692	569	—48·6	—17·7
Kámrúp	281	141	43	48	6·5	2·9	5	86	—49·8	+1,620·0
Darrang	2,643	829	771	672	3·4	1·2	1,132	1,904	—68·6	+ 68·1
Nowgong	929	491	256	226	3·6	2·1	496	440	—46·6	—11·2
Sibságar	4,328	2,314	1,052	898	4·1	2·5	2,882	2,647	—46·5	— 8·1
Lakhimpur ...	4,145	2,001	687	642	6·0	3·1	4,315	4,436	—51·7	+ 2·8
Total Assam Valley ...	12,326	5,776	2,809	2,486	4·3	2·3	8,830	9,513	—53·1	+ 7·7
Grand total ...	15,277	7,291	3,672	3,207	4·1	2·2	9,522	10,082	—52·2	+ 5·8

The decrease which took place in the number of certificates granted to garden sardárs, which represents a percentage of 12·6 on the figures of the previous year, is wholly insufficient to account for the reduction in sardári importations, which represents a percentage of 52·2 on the figures of 1889. This fact coupled with the further fact that the average recruits per sardár show a considerable falling off in every district supports the conclusion that the causes which prejudicially affected sardári recruitment during the year under report are to be sought for rather in the districts of recruitment than in the labour districts. The number of certificates which provided for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement was 1,177, against 1,169 in the previous year.

Cost of importation.

7. There is no new information to be recorded under this head. The matter has been fully discussed in previous Provincial reports and in the special report on the working of Act I of 1882.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley.

8. During the year under report 17,199 immigrants started from the recruiting districts for Assam, against 34,507 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 17,308. The casualties *en route*, that is the number of immigrants who died or absconded, were 46, of whom eight only died, against 104, of whom 93 died, during the previous year. Detentions on account of sickness aggregated 51, against 61 during 1889. The number of coolies who came up to Dhubri free was 12,154, against 29,426 in the previous year, and of these 178 passed as free immigrants, and of the balance 8,648 persons were put under contract and 3,328 were passed as dependents attached to them. Of the 11,453 contracts executed at Dhubri, 2,640 (1,719 labourers with 921 dependents) were for a period of three years, and 8,813 (6,411 labourers and 2,402 dependents) were for a period of five years. Eight thousand six hundred and forty-seven immigrants were examined by the Civil Surgeon before being put under local contracts, of whom 8,137 were passed and 510 were rejected. Of those rejected, 186 were sent on as dependents and 148 as free by the depôt managers, and 40 were returned to their homes by the Civil Surgeon. A noteworthy feature in connection with the transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley during the year under report was the increased extent to which resort was had to the steamer route by Goalundo in place of the railway route by Kaunia, 3,850 of the smaller number of importations during 1890 having come by Goalundo as compared with 3,122 of the far larger number of importations during 1889. In addition to these, 7,629 immigrants were despatched from Goalundo direct to gardens in the Assam Valley, against 1,763 in the previous year. As regards the use of the Goalundo in preference to the Kaunia route, the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, writes—

"In the last paragraph I have referred to immigrants imported by the Goalundo route. By this I mean immigrants who did not pass through the Dhubri depôts. Besides the 7,629 immigrants imported by the Goalundo route, who passed through the Goalundo depôts, and not through the Dhubri depôts, 3,850 of the immigrants imported through Dhubri reached that place by the Goalundo route. The number of immigrants who reached Dhubri by the Kaunia route was 13,257, against 31,291 in 1889. Act I (B.C.) of 1889 and the rules published by the Government of Bengal thereunder with Notification dated the 28th May 1889 now give immigrants by this route ample protection. I have no complaints on this subject, such as I have had in former years. Still the Kaunia route, as predicted by Mr. Godfrey, is losing ground ; 11,479 immigrants adopted the Goalundo route against 4,885 in 1889. Out of 7,438 immigrants who have arrived at Dhubri in the last three months ending March 31st, 1891, only 3,946 adopted the Kaunia route. When I was lately at Dhubri I gathered that the stricter protective measures now adopted had made this route unpopular."

The following memorandum, for which the thanks of the Chief Commissioner are due to Dr. Dobson, the Civil Surgeon at Dhubri, who has had considerable experience and who has for some years past taken special interest in the matter, throws further light on this subject :

"Coolies leave Raneegunge, East Indian Railway, at 12 noon, arrive Naihâti on the Eastern Bengal Railway at 6-30 p.m., where they get a cooked meal. They leave Naihâti at 9 p.m. the same day, and arrive at Goalundo at 5-30 next morning. If steamer space is available, and if *no* obstacles are placed in the way, the coolies are shipped at once, as advice as to number, &c., having been wired from Raneegunge or Naihâti, clothing is ready to be distributed to the coolies, and the necessary shipment papers are made out on board the steamer, which usually leaves by 9 a.m., unless there is cargo, &c., to take on board. Once on board, the coolies get their meals twice daily, and the usual rules are carried out. The above is what is done by Mr. Logan, who is agent for the Tea Districts Labour-supply Association. By working up his establishment, he is able to see that there is no detention at Goalundo, but he admits that the above can only be done in a slack season when coolies are not numerous. If coolies arrived in large batches, it would he says be hopeless to attempt to ship them at Goalundo the very morning they arrive. As it was, it took him some time before he could get his present arrangements carried out. Mr. Logan receives all his coolies *viâ* Goalundo. The free coolies are landed at Dhubri on the third day after leaving Goalundo, and are shipped 24 hours later, that is, after being placed on contract.

"Coolies travelling by the Kaunia route leave Raneegunge at 12 noon, and have the same treatment as far as Naihâti, where they also get a cooked meal. They leave Naihâti at 9 p.m., and reach Saraghat at 6-30 next morning, where they get a cooked meal. They stop at Sara all day in the depôt. They then get their dinner here and leave at 9 p.m. for Parbatipur, which is reached at 4-30 next morning. They wait here 24 hours (so as to enable them to have a cooked meal, as laid down by Bengal Government in 1890), and then catch the same hour's train they came by and arrive at Kaunia at 6-30 a.m. They leave Kaunia at once and reach Dhubri by 3-30 p.m. At Dhubri all coolies adopting the Kaunia-Dhubri route go to the depôt for the night, are inspected next morning, and such as are free are put on contract, and all, whether contracted in the districts or at Dhubri, are shipped by 3-30 p.m., that is they remain 24 hours at Dhubri, so that the Raneegunge-Kaunia Dhubri route takes 4 days and 3½ hours. The Raneegunge-Goalundo route to Dhubri takes exactly the same time ; but if it was a busy season, Mr. Logan states coolies must of necessity be kept 24 hours longer at Goalundo.

" By the Kaunia route the halt at Sara for the day seems to me to be a very desirable one, but the Parbatipur one seems open to objection. To begin with, the coolies are turned out at a very early hour on both arriving at, and leaving this place, and this must be uncomfortable to say the least of it. The cooked meal at Parbatipur is said to be given on arrival, and another in the evening. The former I can hardly believe is given before 10 a.m. Nor is there any necessity for it earlier, as the coolies get a cooked dinner before leaving Sara, and before leaving Parbatipur next morning they get *jalpan* (refreshment). If this break at Parbatipur was done away with and the coolies allowed to proceed, they would reach Dhubri 24 hours sooner. At Kaunia refreshments could be served out to them, and at 3-30 p.m. they would be at Dhubri, comfortably housed, and get their cooked dinner by 5 p.m. Considering the coolies have (we presume) a cooked meal before leaving Ranigunge, another at Naihâti that same evening, the following morning and night two others at Sara, it would not be much of a hardship if they had no cooked food till 24 hours later, that is on arrival at Dhubri, provided of course that they had refreshments at Kaunia. The detention at Parbatipur has not been kindly taken to by contractors, &c. The inconveniences here are great, it necessitates the upkeep of another establishment, and affords yet another place for coolies to be tampered with by unscrupulous persons *en route*.

" The cost of a registered coolie—

Viâ GOALUNDO.

	Rs.	a.
Rail from Raneegunge to Goalundo per adult	... 3	0
One day's food	... 0	3
Steamer fare to Dibrugarh	... 13	0
Total	... 16	3

Viâ KAUNIA.

	Rs.	a.
Rail from Raneegunge to Dhubri ...	5	2
Four days' food ...	... 0	12
One day's ditto at Dhubri ...	... 0	3
Steamer fare, Dhubri to Dibrugarh	... 10	0
Total	... 16	1

The cost of an unregistered coolie is as follows :

	Rs.	a.
Rail, Raneegunge to Goalundo	... 3	0
One day's food	... 0	3
Steamer fare, Goalundo to Dhubri	... 3	8
Total	... 6	11

	Rs.	a.
Rail from Raneegunge to Dhubri ...	5	2
Four days' food	0	12
Total	5	14

" There is also a difference in adults, as the railway charge is nothing for infants up to three years of age, whilst the steamer companies charge one-fourth rates up to three years and half rates between three and ten years.

" Coolies from Monghyr, Arrah, Gya, and Jubbulpore, &c., could come by Shahebganj, Dinagepore, and Kaunia, but this would necessitate more depôts and establishments, and so these people go on to Raneegunge, which seems a very roundabout route for them to adopt. It is also believed Government issued a circular to the effect that it was not meant as a route for coolies.

" The reasons given for coolies leaving the Kaunia or railway route to Dhubri are as follows :—In Mr. Logan's case during the last two years four-fifths of his coolies have been placed on contract in the recruiting districts, and as he has to keep up a Goalundo establishment in addition to his Dhubri one, he finds it far less troublesome adopting the Goalundo route, for, as he puts it,—

" ' I am done with the trouble attendant at Sara, Parbatipur, and Kaunia, where the coolies are subjected to all sorts of unnecessary interference by railway police and native subordinates. Contractors have also taken to the Goalundo route for the same reasons. Their coolies are no longer troubled by persons who frighten them into absconding by telling them all sorts of improbable stories when they fail to extort money from peons and others who are in charge, and also when during cholera seasons the coolie traffic gave a good deal of extra work to the railway menial servants. Reports were frequently made to the railway authorities, but nothing ever came of them. Then, again, in addition to all this trouble, a great source of annoyance was the very heavy charges made by the railway native medical subordinates for the treatment of cholera cases.'

" Mr. Logan had a bill for one coolie for Rs. 72, which, he says—

" ' It is needless to say I refused to pay. This coolie was hurt in a railway accident, and was treated by the Railway Assistant Surgeon at Sara, who submitted the bill. This occurred two years ago, but is an instance of what has tended to make the Kaunia route unpopular.'

" A rate for attendance was fixed by Government, which, Mr. Logan adds,—

" ' Every one was glad enough to pay, provided the attendance was given.'

" Take, for instance (he says), the cholera hospital at Kurigram. It was a shed about a mile away from the station. The unfortunate coolie was put in here and left and bills submitted (he thinks) at Re. 1-8 per diem per patient and 4 annas per diem for attendance. Dieting was a separate item, and (he adds) unless all those things were paid for without a murmur, you would find the whole of your coolies, or half of them any way, detained, because one of them had had or was said to have had, a suspicious stool at some station *en route*. This was borne out afterwards by the whole of the coolies arriving next day perfectly well. Mr. Logan adds—

" ' This of course is from recollection, as it is some time since it occurred.'

" At Kaunia the transhipment officer used to submit bills for dieting of coolies detained there on account of one case of cholera. Perhaps the whole batch was detained for this one case. If the family belonging to the cholera-afflicted coolie had been detained, it would have sufficed, but why detain the whole batch, and the absurdity of this rule was evident, for if the patient died by the following day, the detained coolies were all sent on to Dhubri. Mr. Logan informs me his Association does not intend, as far as he knows, closing the Kaunia route. He has to keep up an establishment at Sara and Parbatipur in the depôts, so as to have an alternate route in case of cholera.

" Mr. Baptist is manager of the General Coolie Recruiting Association, which is an offshoot of Mr. Logan's depôt, owing to some disagreement between certain firms comprising the Tea Districts Labour-supply Association. To this depôt, which by the way has only been in existence about 18 months, all coolies recruited by the Association come by the Kaunia route, their contractors also adopt the

route excepting Messrs. Williams and Saubolle of Raneeganj, who send their coolies by Goalundo, as their *chalan* peons say the Railway Police and doctors at Sara and Parbatipur give great trouble, which trouble can only be avoided by a free expenditure of cash, to which very naturally their masters object.

Mr. Baptist also refers to the detention of coolies for trifling causes, their admission into hospital for treatment, and the enormous charges for such. Mr. Baptist has no doubt but that the police and medical subordinates are overzealous in the discharge of their duties. To his personal knowledge the railway coolies (up-country men and Uriahs) working at Damookdia and Sara not very long ago gave a lot of trouble, which necessitated his Association adopting the Goalundo route for Jubbulpore and Ganjam coolies for a time. He has had no complaints recently. This Association has no depôt or establishment at Goalundo, and as it had selected the Kaunia route from the first, has stuck to it. It must not be forgotten that this Association came into existence after the two cholera seasons of 1888 and 1889, and that conseqnently it has not suffered from the causes Mr. Logan and his predecessor, Mr. Saubolle, complain against.

"The Assam Company is another of the depôts here, but they do a very small amount of work, and they hold to the Kaunia route, because, I fancy, it would not pay them to open an establishment at Goalundo. Personally I have never been able to see any reason for the existence of this forwarding agency, the work of which I have no doubt could be done just as well and much cheaper by utilizing one of the other depôts. But of course this is a point to which we have nothing to say.

"The fourth and the last depôt here is Babu H. L. Mukerjea's. Most of his work has gone to Goalundo, and this is easily understood, as he is a licensed contractor under the Act, a free labour agent and also a general contractor, he has a forwarding depôt at Goalundo, and is contractor for supplying of coolie stores on board the steamers, has depôts in Calcutta, and supplies, I believe, a large amount of labour to the Surma Valley. In his case the steamer companies have also had a voice in getting him to adopt the Goalundo route, for it must not be forgotten that he has the sub-contract for messing the coolies. It is an open secret that the steamer companies are trying to secure the coolie traffic from Goalundo. If they succeed in doing this, they will make so much more, as their steamers run daily from Goalundo. The Kaunia route benefits the railway. Mr. Logan's depôt is the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, and the chief parties in it are Messrs. Williamson Magor & Co., Macneill & Co. (the steamer agents) and Begg Dunlop & Co. It must not be forgotten that the steamer companies are working towards Goalundo. It is the termination for both the Surma and Brahmaputra Valleys, and now that they have had further concessions from Government, they are working more than ever with a view to getting the coolie traffic into their hands from Goalundo.

"Personally I think the longer steamer journey will prove a mistake in cholera seasons, especially so when we have brisk immigration seasons, for I think no one will doubt but that the longer large numbers of human beings are cooped up or collected in small space, the greater is the possibility of cholera occurring. Again Goalundo, if I mistake not, is in the so-called endemic area of cholera, and the immigration reports during the seventies will show that cholera was very prevalent on board steamers. The journey from Goalundo to Dibrugarh now occupies seven days, nearly double the time it does from Dhubri, and is only about half what it was in the days of the big steamers. By the Kaunia route if the coolie is looked after *from* the recruiting districts *to* Raneeganj, I think the good food, cleanly depôts between Raneeganj and Dhubri, the different changes *en route*, the avoidance of being cooped up on a steamer for very many days at a time will all tend to make the Raneeganj Kaunia-Dhubri route a more favourable one, so far as the health of the coolie is concerned. This however is a question that time alone can decide.

"The railway authorities on our representations had taken to providing proper train accommodation, but unfortunately their too zealous subordinates have been allowed to work against them, and the result must be a great decrease in the earnings of the railway under the head 'coolie traffic.' This however so far as we are concerned would be nothing if it really tends to benefit the coolie and permitted of his being imported cheaper into the Province. It will however be noticed that the charges by Goalundo are heavier, but this can be of no consequence to the agents of gardens, if it is, as one often hears, the more the agents can spend the more they get as commission.

"Regarding the cooked meals at Parbatipur, I would not be surprised to hear only one was given, though the agent has to pay for two meals. The coolies are supposed to get two, as they halt there for ·24 hours. The arrival at this station is at an unfortunate hour, and if there was sickness *en route*, the sick would be more than ever inconvenienced. I should have thought Kaunia at 6-30 a.m. would have been a better place to turn coolies out at for their cooked meal, though it would be better still to let them have refreshments here and move on to reach Dhubri by evening.

"During 1888 and 1889, when cholera was bad, coolies no doubt absconded from fright at seeing their comrades die off, but there can be no doubt from the accounts one received almost daily that the railway subordinates helped very considerably to add to the causes that led coolies to abscond. Contractors at the time must have lost heavily, hence I fancy one reason at least why the large contractors adopt the Goalundo route, and also one reason why the Tea Districts Labour-supply Association adopt it, for this latter Association, which in 1888 and 1889 passed about three-fourths of the coolies, must have returned hundreds as absconded."

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

9. The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that the importers of labour in the Cachar district are taking advantage of the steamer service for the conveyance of their coolies, and that consequently there is a material reduction in the mortality during the journey to the gardens. Thus the statistics supplied by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar show that of 1,784 immigrants who left Goalundo for gardens in that district, 35, or 19·6 per mille, died before their destination could be reached, against 196, or 59·1 per mille, during the previous year. Of these 35 deaths, 25 occurred *en route*, and 10 in hospital, against 124 and 72 respectively in 1889 It should however be added that cholera (which

accounted for 21 of the above deaths, against 121 in the previous year) was less prevalent during 1890 than during 1889. Of the 1,784 immigrants despatched from Goalundo, 249 were forwarded direct by steamer, 128 by country boat, and 1,407 partly by steamer and partly by country boat, that is, they were conveyed as far as Fenchuganj by steamer, and were carried thence by boat. On the other hand, in the case of Sylhet from the returns supplied to the Deputy Commissioner by the local agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company, it appears that 3,563, or 43·9 per cent. of the total number of coolies imported, were brought up by steamer, against 56·14 per cent. during 1889. The number of deaths which occurred amongst the coolies imported to Sylhet between Goalundo and their destination was 2 against 59 during the previous year. Since the close of the year rules under Act I (B.C.) of 1889 have been brought into force with the object of providing for the proper sanitary supervision of labourers *en route* to the gardens in the Surma Valley, and it is hoped that these rules, without imposing unnecessary trouble on importers of labour, will have the effect of still further reducing the mortality in transit. As regards transit to the Surma Valley generally it is to be hoped that advantage to an increasing extent will be taken by labour employers of the quicker and less risky mode of conveyance provided by the steamer service, and the Chief Commissioner has little doubt that this will turn out to be the case.

Debarkation depôts.

10. The following table shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year under report :

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts. Through want of a guide.	Number detained at depôts. In hospital.	Number detained at depôts. For segregation.	Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure. Buildings.	Expenditure. Establishments, &c.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
								Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	2	3,423	1,747	.....	70	106	..	371 4 0	3,042 6 10
Sylhet	5	8,106	1,519	.....	13	62	..	347 15 9	1,347 1 7
Kámrúp	..	.....	.....	.....	..	....	..	.....	.....
Darrang	1	4,230	3,820	3,178	15	6	..	182 3 6	1,073 11 1
Nowgong	1	2,418	1,315	87	8	42	..	125 0 0	424 1 7
Sibságar	4	7,647	8,721*	4,753	45	343	..	837 2 3	2,823 3 4
Lakhimpur	1	9,968	7,973	6,573	43†	....	.	151 1 6	1,072 8 0
Total	14	35,798	25,095	14,591	194	559	..	2,014 11 0	9,783 0 5
Total for 1889	13	55,149	36,160	15,299	566	1,357	1	1,945 8 0	12,283 15 7

* This includes 1,074 immigrants for North Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh.
† This includes 3 deaths in the depôts.

A new depôt was opened at Kamalabari in the district of Sibságar for the convenience of planters in the vicinity on the understanding that the entire cost would be borne by the local planting community. As however the planters were unwilling to guarantee the expenditure involved, this depôt has since been closed. The noteworthy feature in the above statement is the large number of persons entered as having been detained through want of a guide. This matter was commented upon in paragraph 10 of last year's report when the attention of employers of labour was drawn to the risk which such detention must necessarily involve. It has been suggested, however, that the figures are misleading in so far as they include immigrants landed at depôts at night, who necessarily stop at the depôts during the night, and proceed on their way the following morning. As the return is meant to show the extent to which the several depôts are used, it is not desirable that persons thus circumstanced should be entirely excluded, but instructions will be issued that the number of persons who used the depôts under such circumstances should be shown in an additional column of the statement, which will be prescribed for this purpose. A further suggestion, which will be separately considered by the Chief Commissioner, has been made that, with a view to reduce the number of immigrants detained at the depôts owing to the want of a guide to conduct them to their destination, a slightly higher charge should be levied for the second and subsequent days during which persons are thus detained, except in the case of segregated batches.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

11. Sixteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-one immigrants (including dependents) were despatched from Dhubri to the several labour districts, of whom only four died *en route*. Besides these, 7,629 immigrants were shipped at Goalundo for gardens in the same valley, amongst whom two deaths occurred between Goalundo and Dhubri, and fifteen deaths occurred between Dhubri and Dibrugarh. Of these deaths several were due to cholera, which however was not present at Dhubri in an epidemic form. The number of deaths at Dhubri itself was 7,

against 147 in 1889. The comparative immunity of the steamers from cholera is satisfactory, and the Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that the deaths on board the steamers numbered four only, against 111 in the preceding year. The total casualties on the journey within the Province were as follows:

	Number of deaths.		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total, 1890.
At Dhubri	5	2	7
On board the steamers	2	2	4
At ports of debarkation	...	...	...
Gauháti	...	...	...
Tezpur	1	2	3
Silghat	1	...	1
Kokilamukh	1	7	8
Disangkmukh	6	1	7
Nigriting	3	1	4
Kamalabari	...	...	...
Mohanamukh	3	...	3
Total...	22	15	37
Total for 1889	374	57	431

The figures for the year under report do not call for remark, except that they compare very favourably with the results during 1889.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley districts.

12. The following figures, given by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Sylhet, refer only to coolies who passed through the depôts:

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who left Goalundo.	Deaths.			
			En route.	In hospital.	Total.	Proportion per mille.
Cachar	1890	1,784	25	10	35	19·6
	1889	3,316	124	72	196	59·1
Sylhet	1890	1,521	2	...	2	1·3
	1889	4,414	59	...	59	13·3

There was thus a considerable diminution in the mortality, which is satisfactory. The results under this head have already been noticed in another connection in paragraph 9.

Cases of kidnapping, fraudulent recruitment, and enticement.

13. During the year under report the prescribed statement showing complaints of fraudulent practices in connection with recruitment continued to be submitted by district officers every two months, and action was invariably taken when necessary. On this subject the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára writes—

"Inquiries into fraudulent recruitment of coolies are made on three accounts, *viz.*, (*a*) on receipt of letters either from the magistrates of the recruiting districts or from the relatives of the missing persons; (*b*) on the complaints made by the coolies themselves at the time of registration; and (*c*) when the registering officer suspects any fraud in the recruitment of any married or unmarried young woman, unaccompanied by any relations.

"The inquiries of the first description were instituted regarding 90 persons, against 47 in the previous year. In the case of 77 persons the enquiry was unsuccessful. Only 13 persons were traced and reported of their whereabouts. The relatives of these persons lodged complaints before magistrates, but in no case (except one still pending) was any conviction obtained against any accused.

"There were 16 complaints of the second description. All the persons thus complaining were returned to the recruiting districts for having their complaints thoroughly enquired into. Nine of these persons absconded *en route*. One woman, instead of making any complaint, came back again, and was put on contract and sent up to Assam; another person could not establish his case, and five cases are still pending.

"The registering officers made 92 enquiries on their own motion regarding unmarried or married young women on suspicion of enticement or fraudulent recruitment. In 39 cases the descriptions furnished by the women served the purpose of tracing them in their countries, and in 49 cases the enquiries were unsuccessful, and four cases are still pending. Incorrect information being supplied caused the failure of all attempts to identify them at their homes. The relatives of these persons, whose whereabouts was ascertained, took no action for getting them back, although apparently anxious to have them back. Only one person was reported to have come with the consent of her father, and eleven came of their own free will. Of the eleven pending cases shown in the last year's report, in seven cases the women were identified in their villages. The difficulties which stand in the way of recovery, such as redemption of contracts, seem to deter parents and relatives from recovering persons who have left their homes."

Commenting on these statistics the Commissioner observes—

"Though our enquiries into cases of enticement and fraudulent recruiting lead to very little result, they no doubt serve as a warning to recruiting agents and to discourage such practices. Complaints and enquiries are increasing in number, which in itself is encouraging. Dividing the complaints into three classes, as was done by Mr. Godfrey in his report for 1888, I find the numbers are –

	First class.	Second class.	Third class.
1888	42	14	40
1889	47	28	97
1890	90	16	92

In Cachar only one complaint was made under the head of fraudulent recruitment. A woman of Burdwan complained that she had been enticed away from her home by an *arkati*. Enquiries were instituted, but the case was proved to be false. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet reports that no case of kidnapping or enticement was brought to his notice during the year. In Kámrúp no cases of fraudulent recruitment were brought to notice. From Darrang two cases of alleged fraudulent recruiting are reported. In one case 16 coolies, who stated that they had been brought to Assam against their wishes, were repatriated, and in the second case the husband of a female emigrant, having complained that his wife had been enticed away, the Deputy Commissioner has been requested by the Commissioner to repatriate the woman if she is really wanted back by her husband. As regards the latter case, the Deputy Commissioner observes that there is not the smallest reason to impute fraud to the employer or his agents. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong reports that no cases of kidnapping or fraudulent recruiting were brought to light during the year. From Sibságar 9 cases are reported, all being cases of either enticement, kidnapping, or abduction. The following are the particulars of these cases. In two cases of alleged enticement, one relating to a female emigrant and the other to two minors, enquiries were made but no trace could be found of the persons concerned. Two cases of abduction were dismissed, and in two cases in which boys were said to have been enticed away to Assam, they were found to be of full age, and to have emigrated of their own free will. In two other cases, in which persons were alleged to have been enticed away to Assam, it was found that the persons concerned had not left Bengal, and in the remaining case, in which a woman was stated to have been abducted from her home, enquiries are still in progress. In Lakhimpur enquiries were made into 13 cases of alleged fraudulent recruiting. Of these, 8 related to the abduction of single women, 7 of whom denied having been abducted against their will, and were willing to remain on the gardens. One girl, alleged to have been enticed away from her home, could not be traced. Three cases related to three boys who were said to be minors and to have been enticed away. In one of these cases it was found that the boy had come to Assam of his own free will and was willing to remain on the garden; in the second the emigrant could not be traced; and the third case was dismissed, there being no sufficient ground for proceeding with it. In regard to one case the Deputy Commissioner reports—

"A gang of some 30 coolies came to Court, after debarkation, to complain that they had been enticed away and brought to this district while they were on their way to a Sylhet garden. The case was enquired into both at Sylhet and Dhubri. The allegations appeared to be false. Though at first rather unwilling to go to the garden for which they had executed contracts at Dhubri, the coolies have now settled down, and four months after some of the leaders were sent down as garden sardárs to recruit."

The remaining case, in which a man and a woman complained that they had been enticed away from their homes, is still under enquiry in Bengal.

CHAPTER II.

LABOUR FORCE.

Statistics of the labour force.

14. The table below shows the additions to and deductions from the total labour force of the Province during the year 1890 :

Labour force remaining at the end of the year 1889 (column 2 of statement)	390,468
ADDITIONS—	
Imported by contractors or garden sardárs, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4, and 5 of statement) ..	36,080
Local labour contracts entered into under sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement)	17,413
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement)	6,671
Deserters recaptured (column 9 of statement)	431
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement) ...	14,263
Otherwise obtained (column 11 of statement)	22,643
Births (column 12 of statement)	10,293
Total	107,794
DEDUCTIONS—	
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement)	4,576
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement)	50,600
Deaths (column 18 of statement)	13,949
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	12,972
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement) ..	7,518
Contracts cancelled under sections 111, 140, or 177, Act I of 1882 (column 23 of statement) ...	70
„ „ „ section 122 („ 24 „ „) ...	320
„ „ „ „ 129 („ 25 „ „) ...	1
„ redeemed „ „ 142 („ 28 „ „) ...	17
„ dissolved by mutual consent („ 29 „ „) ...	73
Suspended under section 120 of Act I of 1882 (column 26 of statement)	16
Total	90,112
Net increase during the year	17,682
Grand total at the close of the year	408,150

It will thus be seen that in spite of the considerable falling off which took place in the importation of labour, there was an increase of 17,682, or 4·5 per cent., on the labour force remaining at the close of 1889.

Mean strength of the labour force.

15. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning and end of each of the last three years, and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1890 :

Class of labourers.	1st January 1888.	1st January 1889.	1st January 1890.	1st July 1890.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1890.	31st December 1890.	Mean strength for the second half-year.
Act adults	81,701	88,311	97,270	103,464	100,367	101,904	102,684
Non-Act { Adults	122,556	133,001	142,424	152,232	147,328	147,462	149,847
Non-Act { Children	119,843	132,054	150,774	157,175	153,974	158,783	157,978
Total	324,100	354,266	390,468	412,871	401,669	408,150	410,510

District figures of the labour force.

16. The details of the labour force of each district, showing the variations of strength during the year, are given below :

District.	1st January 1890.	31st December 1890.	Percentage of total Provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	98,357	99,856	24·4	+1,499	+1·5
Sylhet	78,223	82,717	22·4	+4,494	+5·7
Total Surma Valley ...	176,580	182,573	44·7	+5,993	+3·3
Kámrúp	3,272	3,012	0·7	—260	—7·9
Darrang	40,517	43,271	10·6	+2,751	+6·7
Nowgong	14,025	15,359	3·7	+1,334	+9·5
Siságar	87,868	91,234	22·3	+3,366	+3·8
Lakhimpur	68,206	72,701	17·8	+4,495	+6·5
Total Assam Valley ...	213,888	225,577	55·3	+11,689	+5·4
Grand total	390,468	408,150	100·0	+7,682	+4·5

The percentage of increase for the Province generally thus fell from 10·2 in the preceding year to 4·5 in the year under report.

17. The nationality and sex of the adult labour force at the beginning and end of the year are shown in the following table :

Nationality and sex of the adult labour force.

Nationality.	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men ..	8,956	8,733	19,105	19,738	28,061	28,471	22·4
	Women ..	8,301	8,312	18,465	19,115	26,766	27,427	
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	Men ..	7,461	7,104	19,097	20,062	26,558	27,166	20·2
	Women ..	5,534	5,250	16,592	17,801	22,126	23,051	
Chota Nagpur	Men ..	33,697	35,314	30,547	31,221	64,244	66,535	50·3
	Women ..	28,660	30,686	27,825	28,260	56,485	58,946	
Nepal	Men ..	33	37	118	113	151	150	0·1
	Women ..	20	19	78	74	98	93	
Madras	Men ..	888	1,635	917	1,083	1,805	2,718	2·1
	Women ..	856	1,417	847	1,120	1,703	2,537	
Bombay	Men ..	5	9	126	135	131	144	0·1
	Women ..	6	10	130	131	136	141	
Assam	Men ..	2,110	2,516	6,712	6,654	8,822	9,170	4·8
	Women ..	730	831	1,827	1,873	2,557	2,704	
Orissa	Men ..	9	19	19	45	28	64	.....
	Women ..	4	12	19	38	23	50	
Total..	Men ..	53,159	55,367	76,641	79,051	129,800	134,418	.....
	Women ..	44,111	46,537	65,783	68,412	109,894	114,949	
Grand total	.....	97,270	101,904	142,424	147,463	239,694	249,367	.....

N.B.—The differences between the entries in columns 3 and 5 and those in columns 4 and 6 of the statement embodied in paragraph 17 of the report for 1889 are due to causes explained at the foot of the statement at the end of this report.

The variations as compared with the figures for the previous year are inconsiderable, except in the case of Madras coolies, the ratio of which nationality advanced from 1·0 per cent. to 2·1 per cent. There are signs on all sides of a tendency to recruit more extensively from the Madras Presidency, mainly from the district of Ganjam.

The proportion of Act, non-Act, and all coolies belonging to each nationality is shown below :

	1889.	1890.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act labourers.	Total.
Bengal	23·3	16·73	26·35	22·4
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar	20·2	12·12	25·68	20·2
Chota Nagpur	50·5	64·78	40·34	50·3
Nepal	0·1	·05	·13	0·1
Madras	1·0	2·99	1·49	2·1
Bombay	0·1	·02	·18	0·1
Assam	4·8	3·28	5·78	4·8
Orissa	.....	·03	·05	.....
Total	100·	100·	100·	100·

18. The mean strength in each district for each half-year and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertions are calculated on these figures :

Mean strength of labour force in each district.

District.	Act.			Non-Act.						Total annual strength.		
				Adults.			Children.					
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar	9,653	8,688	9,170	45,606	46,978	46,292	44,058	44,401	44,229	99,318	100,068	99,693
Sylhet	9,551	9,256	9,404	40,151	41,438	40,794	30,662	31,917	31,289	80,364	82,611	81,487
Kámrúp	652	681	666	1,415	1,328	1,372	1,163	1,091	1,127	3,230	3,100	3,165
Darrang	17,614	18,802	18,208	11,599	11,384	11,491	13,157	13,560	13,358	42,370	43,747	43,058
Nowgong ..	2,985	3,236	3,110	6,831	6,989	6,910	5,183	5,441	5,312	15,000	15,667	15,333
Sibságar	34,252	35,217	34,735	21,533	21,448	21,492	34,597	35,400	34,998	90,382	92,065	91,223
Lakhimpur ..	25,658	26,803	26,231	20,192	20,281	20,236	25,154	26,168	25,661	71,004	73,252	72,128
Total	100,367	102,684	101,525	147,328	149,847	148,587	153,974	157,978	155,976	401,669	410,510	406,089

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

19. The number of contracts executed under section 111 of the Act fell from 17,818 in the previous year to 16,715, or by 6·1 per cent., while the number of local contracts executed under section 112 of the Act in the presence of the Inspector increased from 574 to 698, or by 21·6 per cent. In addition to the above, 8,648 contracts were executed at Dhubri under section 111 against 17,998 in the previous year, and 4,908 contracts were entered into in the recruiting districts against 6,346 in 1889. Thus the total number of contracts executed during the year under report, whether in the districts of recruitment, at Dhubri, or in the labour districts, was 30,969 against 42,736 in the preceding year. These figures do not include contracts under Act XIII of 1859.

Number of contracts made.

20. The following table shows the sex and nationality of the labourers who entered into local contracts district by district :

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality.								Total of columns 3 and 4.
				Bengal.	North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	Chota Nagpur.	Nepal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Assam.	Orissa.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	Men	421	40	173	196	83	1	4	1	3	..	461
	Women	275	23	101	120	66	1	6	2	2	..	298
	Total of 1890	696	63	274	316	149	2	10	3	5	..	759
	„ „ 1889	1,448	119	477	665	424	1	....	..	....	..	1,567
Sylhet	Men	968	....	123	300	294	....	251	..	....	..	968
	Women	802	....	119	179	223	....	281	..	....	..	802
	Total of 1890	1,770	....	242	479	517	....	532	..	....	..	1,770
	„ „ 1889	4,165	57	1,446	982	1,441	....	337	..	2	14	4,222
Kámrúp	Men	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	..	4	..	4
	Women	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	....	..	....
	Total of 1890	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	..	4	..	4
	„ „ 1889	9	....	1	....	8	....	....	..	....	..	9
Darrang	Men	2,174	126	274	202	948	1	6	..	869	..	2,300
	Women	1,170	15	247	116	589	....	5	..	228	..	1,185
	Total of 1890	3,344	141	521	318	1,537	1	11	..	1,097	..	3,485
	„ „ 1889	3,064	90	553	239	1,302	2	9	..	1,049	..	3,154
Nowgong	Men	96	14	12	9	80	....	....	..	9	..	110
	Women	31	6	4	1	30	....	....	..	2	..	37
	Total of 1890	127	20	16	10	110	....	....	..	11	..	147
	„ „ 1889	50	31	4	....	77	....	....	..	....	..	81
Sibságar	Men	5,057	242	909	754	2,730	29	19	3	855	..	5,299
	Women	3,343	150	749	534	2,101	....	8	2	99	..	3,493
	Total of 1890	8,400	392	1,658	1,288	4,831	29	27	5	954	..	8,792
	„ „ 1889	7,494	177	1,577	994	4,328	16	63	5	688	..	7,671
Lakhimpur	Men	1,439	54	124	62	1,274	....	10	..	23	..	1,493
	Women	936	27	143	35	777	....	5	..	3	..	963
	Total of 1890	2,375	81	267	97	2,051	....	15	..	26	..	2,456
	„ „ 1889	1,588	100	224	30	1,354	....	30	..	50	..	1,668
	Grand total of 1890 ..	16,715	698	2,978	2,508	9,195	32	595	8	2,097	..	17,413
	„ „ „ 1889 ..	17,818	574	4,282	2,910	8,934	1	439	5	1,789	14	18,392

In the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur an increase took place in the extent to which resort was had to section 111 of the Act, while a decrease occurred in Cachar, Sylhet, and Kámrúp. In the case of section 112 a decrease occurred in Cachar, Sylhet, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur, and an increase in Darrang and Sibságar. These results will be discussed more fully in the following paragraph.

Details of local contracts.

21. The following table gives details of local contracts, the classes of labourers who entered into them and the terms of the contracts, those executed at Dhubri being excluded.

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			New.	Time expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two and a half years.	3	4	Under five years.	5
Cachar	696	63	365	389	...	5	...	207	153	2	369	...	...	28
Sylhet	1,770	...	1,675	95	...	...	...	94	57†	...	1,619‡	...	...	...
Kámrúp	3	1	...	...	...	4	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...
Darrang	3,344	141	79	2,257	...	1,049	66	1,482	764	...	817	27	...	329
Nowgong ...	127	20	10	113	12	12	...	97§	11‖	...	31	...	...	8
Sibságar	8,560	392	1,619	6,145	...	1,188	270	2,630	2,670	23	2,990	129	66	174
Lakhimpur ...	2,375	81	36	2,387	...	33	5	1,554	490	...	138	51	...	218
Total	16,875*	698	3,784	11,386	12	2,291	341	6,067	4,145	25	5,965	207	66	757
Total for 1889 ...	17,660	574	6,595	9,651	39	1,944	241	5,814	3,550	67	7,558	71	85	948

* The difference between this entry and that in column 3 of the table in paragraph 20 showing nationality of labourers entering into local contracts and in column 6 of the statement at the end of the report is in the case of Sibságar, and is attributed to the fact that 160 contracts executed towards the end of the year were omitted by the managers from their returns.

† This includes 2 contracts for 1½ years.

‡ Ditto 28 contracts under 3 years.

§ Ditto 2 ditto 1½ „

‖ Ditto 2 for 2½ years.

There was a very considerable decrease in the number of contracts executed under section 111 in Cachar (from 1,448 to 696), Sylhet (from 4,165 to 1,770), while a more or less considerable increase took place in Darrang (from 3,064 to 3,334), Nowgong (from 50 to 127), Sibságar (from 7,336 to 8,560), and in Lakhimpur (from 1,588 to 2,375). On the other hand, as regards contracts executed before the Inspector under section 112 of the Act, a decrease occurred in Cachar (from 119 to 63), Sylhet (from 57 to *nil*), Nowgong (from 31 to 20), and Lakhimpur (from 100 to 81), while an increase is shown in Darrang (from 90 to 141) and Sibságar (from 177 to 392).

In the case of Cachar the explanation given is the reduced importation during the year and the increased resort to Act XIII of 1859, especially in the case of time-expired labourers. A similar explanation is given by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet. No explanation is offered by the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, who had only been in charge of the district a short time before the preparation of the annual report. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong writes as regards the increased resort to section 111—

"The increase I think is due to the preference shown by managers for securing at little or no expense labourers under these local contracts who are seasoned and acclimatized, and therefore more desirable acquisitions than newly imported and previously unknown and unacclimatized people brought up under contract from below under heavy pecuniary cost. Sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 are moreover apparently gradually ousting Act XIII of 1859, which formerly was more in vogue."

No explanation is given of the Sibságar figures. The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur attributes the increase under section 111 contracts to the fact that some large gardens which in previous years renewed contracts under Act XIII of 1859 now use in preference section 111 of Act I of 1882.

As regards the class of labourers who entered into local contracts, the considerable increase which took place under the head of time-expired coolies (from 9,651 to 11,386) is noteworthy, and probably points to the extended use of section 111 in these cases. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to notice that the number of local labourers who entered into contracts under Act I of 1882 increased from 1,944 in the preceding year to 2,291.

Under the head of the duration of the contracts entered into it is only natural to find that, owing to the smaller number of new importations during the year, long-term contracts should have decreased and contracts for short terms should have increased. The figures for long-term contracts (that is for contracts from three to five years) show a considerable decrease except in the cases of contracts for four years, the increase under which head is mainly due to 129 such contracts having been executed in the district of Sibságar.

22. The following table shows the extent to which contracts executed locally have been verified during the year:

Verification of contracts.

1	2				3	4	5	6
District.	Number and year of contracts under section 111 (excluding those executed at Dhubri) remaining unverified at beginning of year under report.				Number of contracts executed during the year under section 111.	Total of columns 2 and 3.	Number of such contracts executed after the last inspection where the garden has been inspected during the year under report	Total number of contracts for verification (column 4 *minus* column 5).
	1887.	1888.	1889	Total.				
Cachar	....	51	684	735	696	1,431	338	1,093
Sylhet	6	21	699	726	1,770	2,496	572	1,924
Kámrúp	....	....	2	2	3	5	....	5
Darrang	....	....	552	552	3,344	3,896	1,165	2,731
Nowgong	....	....	21	21	127	148	9	139
Sibságar	....	684	1,815	2,499	8,560	11,059	2,860	8,199
Lakhimpur..	....	....	234	234	2,375	2,609	940	1,669
Total	6	756	4,007	4,769	16,875*	21,644	5,884	15,760
Total for 1889	368*	5,450	....	5,818	17,660	23,478	3,908	19,570

	7										8	9	10	11			
District.	Number and year of contract.										Total (of totals under column 7).	Percentage of all contracts verified or cancelled (total of column 8 on total of column 6).	Percentage of contracts of year under report, verified or cancelled (total of sub-columns for year under report in column 7 on total of column 3 *minus* column 5).	Remained unverified for			
	(*a*) Verified.					(*b*) Cancelled.								Expiry of the term of contract.	Death or desertion of the labourer.	Absence of the labourer on the date of inspection on recruiting work or for sickness, &c.	Total.
	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	Total.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	Total.							
Cachar	..	43	565	321	929	..	..	2	1	3	932	85·2	89·9	5	64	70	139
Sylhet	1	16	640	1,113	1,770	..	..	7	12	19	1,789	92·9	93·9	8	70	53	131
Kámrúp	..	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	80·0	100·0	1	..	....	1
Darrang	..	..	194	1,782	1,976	..	..	..	..	..	1,976	72·3	81·7	318	14	103	435
Nowgong	..	..	21	113	134	..	..	..	..	..	134	96·4	95·7	..	4	....	4
Sibságar	..	106	823	4,385	5,314	..	..	2	..	2	5,316	64·8	76·9	912	224	1,549	2,685
Lakhimpur	..	..	147	1,322	1,469	..	..	..	..	..	1,469	88·0	92·0	..	34	86	120
Total	1	165	2,391	9,039	11,596	..	..	11	13	24	11,620	73·7	82·3	1,244	410	1,861	3,515
Total for 1889 ..	304†	3,712	12,235	..	16,251	15	28	113	..	156	16,407	83·8	89·7	..	..	....	..

* See explanation at foot of statement showing details of local contracts.
† These figures include the figures of 1886 (82 and 67) respectively.

The results shown in this table cannot be regarded as satisfactory, the Provincial percentages shown in columns 9 and 10 having fallen from 83·8 and 89·7 in the preceding year to 73·7 and 82·3 respectively; but the Chief Commissioner is aware that allowance must be made on the present occasion for the extent to which the work of verifying contracts was impeded by the performance of duties in connection with the census. In spite of this fact however more should have been done in the districts of Darrang and Sibságar, which show especially bad results. The Deputy Commissioners of these districts will be required to submit periodical reports to the Commissioner, who should satisfy himself that proper progress is being made with the work. The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes—

"Many of the contracts that remained unverified at the end of the year have been verified since the close of the year."

23. The subjoined table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such contracts reported by managers, and the number of contracts cancelled or which terminated in other ways :

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

District.	Number shown in garden returns as time-expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, section 120.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 129.	Number cancelled by Magistrate under section 140.	Number redeemed under section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar	2,934	2,872	11	.....	25	1	.....	5	4
Sylhet	1,854	1,834	2	.....	51	.....	.....	.....	2
Kámrúp	16	13	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	3
Darrang	2,335	2,335	.....	16	8	.....	55	.....	11
Nowgong	281	221	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	6
Sibságar	9,141	6,027	2	.....	85	.....	.....	9	35
Lakhimpur	3,943	3,886	.....	.....	145	.....	.....	3	12
Total of 1890	20,504	17,188	15	16	320	1	55	17	73
„ „ 1889	23,461	20,928	29	44	512	3	1	19	232

Managers were not so careful as in the preceding year to comply with the requirements of section 141 of the Act, and the results were especially bad in Sibságar, the Deputy Commissioner of which district has been compelled to call on the defaulting managers to show cause why they should not be prosecuted under section 185 of Act I of 1882. Nowgong shows considerable improvement in this respect.

The figures in the remaining columns of the statement do not call for any detailed remarks. The proceedings of the subdivisional officer of Mangaldai in the Darrang district in cancelling under section 120 of the Act 16 contracts in the case of certain coolies who alleged that they had been brought to Assam against their wishes were clearly irregular, as the section in question relates only to the suspension of contracts owing to temporary unfitness. In regard to cancelments under section 122, the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang remarks that " his predecessor refused to cancel under this section unless the coolies were really permanently unfitted to work." This remark is not understood, in so far as it implies that the procedure referred to was incorrect. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong states that contracts are not cancelled under section 122, unless they are accompanied by medical certificates to the effect that the coolies concerned are really permanently incapacitated for further work, *and further that they are in a fit state of health to undertake the journey to their homes.* The meaning of the words italicized is not understood, but it is obvious that the intention of the law must be defeated if any such condition is insisted upon. The Deputy Commissioner will be called upon for an explanation. The 55 contracts cancelled under section 140 in the Darrang district related to certain coolies on the Horabari and Katahi gardens, whose wages were found by the subdivisional officer, Mangaldai, to be in arrear for more than four months. The Commissioner has raised the question whether contracts dissolved with a view to renewal should be entered in the statement at all. This matter will be separately considered by the Chief Commissioner.

24. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that no case occurred under the second paragraph of section 121 of Act I of 1882, which is practically a dead letter. As regards section 170, Mr. Clark observes—

The extent to which the second paragraph of section 121 and section 170 of Act I of 1882 are acted upon.

" Fifteen managers sent in lists of absentees, three of whom withdrew their lists at the time of enquiry, and in none of the remaining 12 gardens was the Inspector ever asked to endorse the absent days on the contracts—a proceeding seemingly not liked by the managers, as it may give rise to discontent among the coolies."

In Sylhet neither of the sections was acted upon, and a similar remark applies to Kámrúp. In Darrang the second paragraph of section 121 has not been acted upon, but 11 gardens submitted lists of absentees under section 170. In these cases, however, the managers concerned did not ask to have the days of absence endorsed on the contracts. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong remarks as regards section 121 that the managers in that district are all loath to bear hardly on their coolies by getting days of absence endorsed on their contracts. As regards section 170, Major Gray observes—

" Only from four gardens lists of *khatia* days are sent in regularly. At the time of inspection these *khatia* days, after the necessary enquiries, are endorsed on the agreements. It is difficult however to convey any adequate idea as to how formidable an addition to the work of inspection the provisions of section 170 entail. One garden, Amlukhi, sends in monthly lists of nearly 400 names,

It can perhaps be conjectured what a number of *khatia* coolies this aggregates from the time of one inspection to that of the next. It simply means that one inspection officer has to settle down to several days' exclusive devotion to this one work alone. I think when the Act was framed that it was never anticipated what an amount of time and labour the provisions of section 170 would entail."

With regard to this the Commissioner observes :—

"I have on former occasions pointed out that section 170, if made use of generally, would overwhelm our inspection staff."

In Lakhimpur the Deputy Commissioner reports that the planters do not insist on the endorsement of days of absence on the contracts, although some of them send in lists of absentees. In regard to this matter the Chief Commissioner has nothing to add to the remarks made in paragraph 108 of the special report.

Repatriation of labourers.

25. Of the 25 coolies whose contracts were cancelled on the ground of permanent unfitness in Cachar, 2 died after cancelment of their contract, 11 went with their relatives to their homes, and the rest remained in the district with their friends. All these coolies were awarded the full three months' wages allowed by the Act. Of the coolies whose contracts were cancelled under section 122 in Sylhet, 33 remained on the gardens with relatives, and 18 were sent to their homes with their children, a sum of Rs. 92-15-3 having been paid from Provincial funds for their repatriation in addition to three months' wages. In Kámrúp the one coolie whose contract was cancelled under section 122 received compensation, and was repatriated. In Darrang all the 8 coolies whose contracts were cancelled under section 122 were sent to their homes, the full three months' wages being paid. Of the 5 coolies whose contracts were cancelled on the ground of permanent unfitness in Nowgong, 4 were sent to their homes with three months' wages and one remained on the garden. Of the 85 coolies whose contracts were cancelled in Sibságar under section 122, 59 were sent back to their homes with three months' wages, 24 remained in the district, and the remaining 2 died. Seven coolie women and a boy (free labourers) were also repatriated from Sibságar. In Lakhimpur, of the 145 coolies whose contracts were cancelled under section 126, 97 were sent back to their homes with three months' wages, the difference of Rs. 334-4-3 between this amount and the actual expenses being borne by public funds. Thirteen coolies arrived in the station in a moribund condition, and died in the charitable dispensary. The remaining 27 coolies preferred to remain on the gardens. As regards the circumstances under which the contracts of 13 coolies described as being in a moribund condition were dissolved, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"The 13 coolies who died in the charitable dispensary after their agreements were cancelled under section 122 belonged to the Assam Railway and Trading Company's collieries. They were unfit to travel when their agreements determined, and they were kept in the hospital for treatment, where they died subsequently. In some cases the coolies died within two to three days of their arrival at the station."

Wages.

26. The following two statements give particulars of the wages earned by Act labourers and non-Act coolies, including children, in each subdivision. They are based on figures obtained during inspections of gardens. In the second table the average and highest wages are given both in the manufacturing and the non-manufacturing seasons.

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Highest. Rs. a. p.
Cachar (181) ...	Act ...	Men ...	4 8 6	8 4 5
		Women ...	3 0 3	7 0 1
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 13 1	8 14 6
		Women ...	3 8 1	7 7 2
		Children ...	1 11 9	4 1 10
North Sylhet (28)	Act ...	Men ...	3 14 10	5 10 1
		Women ...	2 15 6	4 8 5
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 5 7	7 1 6
		Women ...	3 5 3	5 5 2
		Children ...	2 2 6	3 13 8
South Sylhet (48)	Act ...	Men ...	6 10 7	10 6 0
		Women ...	5 1 5	10 2 0
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	5 11 3	12 0 0
		Women ...	7 7 4	15 8 3
		Children ...	4 5 0	8 12 3
Karimganj (31) ...	Act ...	Men ...	3 12 1	6 10 4
		Women ...	2 15 5	4 2 5
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	3 11 10	7 15 9
		Women ...	3 4 4	6 9 11
		Children ...	1 12 11	4 8 4
Habiganj (8) ...	Act ...	Men ...	4 3 1	7 12 7
		Women ...	2 13 8	7 11 7
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 8 5	9 3 0
		Women ...	3 8 4	16 3 0
		Children ...	1 9 9	6 13 2

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Highest. Rs. a. p.
Kámrúp	Act	Men	3 15 2	6 14 9
		Women	2 12 3	5 14 6
	Non-Act	Men	3 8 6	7 14 3
		Women	2 15 3	7 13 6
		Children	1 15 9	4 12 2
Darrang (32)	Act	Men	5 8 8	7 0 0
		Women	4 4 5	7 6 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 9 2	7 0 0
		Women	3 10 0	8 10 3
		Children	2 9 0	5 9 0
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 13 5	8 0 0
		Women	3 15 6	5 0 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 10 3	12 0 0
		Women	4 11 11	6 0 0
		Children	2 11 9	5 0 0
Sibságar (96)	Act	Men	4 14 4	15 4 0
		Women	3 11 2	8 14 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 14 8	18 0 0
		Women	3 7 6	11 4 0
		Children	2 5 9	5 14 2
Lakhimpur (87)	Act	Men	5 4 4	13 1 6
		Women	4 1 1	14 0 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 1 4	15 0 0
		Women	5 13 10	14 8 6
		Children	2 15 5	7 2 0

			Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Highest. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages. Highest. Rs. a. p.
Cachar (181)	Act	Men	4 1 6	6 11 6	4 13 7	9 6 10
		Women	2 12 9	5 9 0	3 7 9	7 15 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 8	7 14 3	5 8 5	11 7 8
		Women	3 4 2	6 2 9	4 3 1	9 2 0
		Children	1 3 9	3 10 8	2 4 3	5 6 4
North Sylhet (28)	Act	Men	4 1 7	5 8 5	3 12 2	5 11 10
		Women	2 15 5	4 1 9	2 15 8	4 15 2
	Non-Act	Men	4 5 4	6 9 8	4 5 11	7 9 5
		Women	3 1 7	4 9 7	3 8 11	6 0 11
		Children	2 0 1	3 8 4	2 5 0	4 3 1
South Sylhet (48)	Act	Men	3 15 5	5 8 0	4 2 9	7 8 7
		Women	3 2 6	4 15 0	3 5 4	5 10 2
	Non-Act	Men	4 8 11	5 12 10	4 11 6	5 15 9
		Women	3 6 0	4 15 0	3 13 5	5 2 0
		Children	1 10 11	3 3 10	1 13 5	4 0 0
Karimganj (13)	Act	Men	3 12 9	7 0 6	3 11 5	6 4 3
		Women	3 1 5	3 12 9	2 12 6	4 8 1
	Non-Act	Men	3 14 3	7 5 11	3 9 5	8 9 8
		Women	3 5 2	5 13 5	3 3 5	7 6 6
		Children	1 11 5	4 4 3	1 14 6	4 12 5
Habiganj	Act	Men	No information.			
		Women				
	Non-Act	Men				
		Women				
		Children				
Kámrúp (15)	Act	Men	3 10 1	4 15 11	4 3 11	6 10 4
		Women	2 11 0	4 2 0	3 4 8	5 13 9
	Non-Act	Men	3 5 6	6 1 9	4 6 4	7 12 4
		Women	2 14 0	4 11 10	4 5 4	7 7 5
		Children	1 13 1	3 8 0	2 8 6	4 5 6
Darrang (47)	Act	Men	4 1 8	6 5 0	5 5 0	7 0 0
		Women	3 7 10	5 9 6	4 1 10	7 6 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 0	6 0 0	5 7 11	10 12 0
		Women	3 1 10	4 0 0	4 3 9	8 10 3
		Children	2 4 7	3 0 0	2 11 0	5 9 0
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 3 10	8 0 0	5 7 1	12 0 0
		Women	3 3 0	5 0 0	4 12 1	14 9 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 2 2	12 0 0	6 2 4	15 8 0
		Women	3 12 11	6 0 0	5 10 11	14 12 0
		Children	2 3 2	5 0 0	3 4 5	7 2 3
Sibságar (96)	Act	Men	4 8 10	15 0 0	5 3 11	15 8 0
		Women	3 4 8	7 6 3	4 1 8	10 5 9
	Non-Act	Men	4 3 5	16 0 0	5 9 0	20 0 0
		Women	3 1 11	6 10 0	3 13 0	15 14 0
		Children	2 3 8	5 12 0	2 7 10	6 0 3
Lakhimpur (87)	Act	Men	4 14 0	12 9 3	5 10 5	13 1 6
		Women	3 10 10	8 0 0	4 7 4	14 0 0
	Non-Act	Men	3 10 8	15 0 0	6 8 1	15 0 0
		Women	4 13 10	12 0 0	5 8 9	14 8 6
		Children	2 13 1	6 0 0	3 1 9	7 2 0

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

Offences committed by tea garden population.

27. The following figures show the offences committed by the tea garden population during each of the past two years under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882 respectively (excluding the offence of desertion, which is separately dealt with):

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882.																						Total.	
	Section 151, garden sardár failing to report himself.		Section 158, garden sardár failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employer arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183, enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract &c.			
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Cachar	71	58	2	..	5	..	22	7	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	..	1*	36	16
Sylhet	5	23	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	8	..	..	5	9
Kámrúp	11	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Darrang	5	10	6	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	28	8	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	4	..	..	39	20
Nowgong	13	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	4	13
Sibságar	9	55	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	13	..	..	..	..	4	1	9	14	..	..	27	34
Lákhimpur	5	17	1	7	..	..	2	1†	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	10	..	..	7	23
Total	119	174	12	20	6	..	24	9	1	..	1	1	43	34	..	1	..	..	5	3	26	47	..	1	118	116

* Under section 187 of the Act. | † Under section 162 of the Act.

The above figures show that while offences under Act XIII of 1859 have increased during the year under report (from 119 in the preceding year to 174), offences under Act I of 1882 have decreased very slightly. As regards Act XIII of 1859, the decrease which took place in Cachar is not explained, and is probably merely due to ordinary fluctuations. Of the 23 coolies convicted in Sylhet, 15 were sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment on refusal to fulfil their contracts, one was ordered to pay Rs. 10 to the manager, and the rest were ordered to perform their contracts. In Kámrúp three of the five coolies convicted were directed to work out their contracts, and two were discharged. The ten coolies convicted in Darrang were all sent back to the gardens to fulfil their contracts. In Nowgong all of the six coolies convicted were ordered to fulfil their agreements. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar explains that the increase in convictions under Act XIII of 1859 (from 9 to 55) occurred chiefly in the Golághát subdivision. Of the 55 persons convicted in this district, 48 were directed to fulfil their contracts, one was rigorously imprisoned for two months, two for one month, and three for 14 days, for not carrying out the previous order of the court, and one was ordered to refund his advance. In Lakhimpur, 13 of the 17 coolies convicted were ordered back to the gardens to fulfil their contracts, three were directed to give security for the performance of their agreements, and one was ordered to return the money advanced to him.

As regards offences under Act I. of 1882, the figures do not call for any detailed remarks, and it seems scarcely necessary to mention the punishments inflicted in each case. None of the cases possessed any special interest, and in no case does the punishment inflicted appear to have been unduly severe.

The following statement shows the offences against the general criminal law committed during each of the past two years by the population of the tea-gardens :

District.	Penal Code.																					
	Adultery.	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit ditto.	Murder.	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass.	Lurking house trespass.	House trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Kidnapping.	Criminal breach of trust.	Laying false complaint.
Cachar	..	36	12	1	..	1	20	14	4	27	1	..	..	..	1	26	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sylhet	..	18	6	1	..	..	14	2	..	5	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kámrúp ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang ..	..	6	7	..	..	..	1	2	2	5	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	..	1	..
Nowgong ..	..	..	29	..	..	..	1	..	2	7	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Sibságar ..	..	11	5	4*	4	5	6	7	9	39	1	2	2	8	2	5	..	..	..	..	4	1
Lakhimpur ..	..	..	6	..	2	1	12	..	4	34	..	10	7	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	1	4
Total of 1890 ..	..	71	65	6	6	9	55	27	20	118	3	20	10	9	3	39	..	2	3	1	6	6
Total of 1889 ..	1	46	44	2	..	9	36	27	14	88	9	10	8	3	1	14	4	1	9	8†	7	7

District.	Penal Code—*concluded*.																				
	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Unnatural offences.	Insult.	Wrongful confinement.	Offences against public tranquillity.	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	Dealing with fire, &c., so as to endanger human life, section 285.	Rape.	Defamation, section 500.	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Offering bribe.	Enticing away a married woman.	Exposure of child, &c., section 317.	Public nuisance, section 290.	Total.	Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
Cachar ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	150	55	3	208
Sylhet ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	52	..	11	63
Kámrúp ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
Darrang ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	1	1	41
Nowgong ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	..	..	44
Sibságar ..	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	125	3	3	131
Lakhimpur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87	1	26	114
Total of 1890 ..	1	2	1	2	1	..	2	3	1	1	1	..	4	..	1	..	.	499	60	44	603
Total of 1889 ..	..	6	..	..	6	2	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	1	2	1	1	367	38	153	558

* This includes one case for screening the above offence. | † Obstructing public servant.

This table shows an increase of criminality in the case of the districts of Cachar, Nowgong, and Sibságar, and a decrease in Sylhet, Kámrúp, Darrang, and Lakhimpur. The chief heads under which increase occurred were "Unlawful assembly and affray" (from 46 to 71 cases), "Rioting" (from 44 to 65 cases), "Assault" (from 36 to 55 cases), "Theft" (from 88 to 118 cases), and "Dishonestly receiving stolen property" (from 14 to 39 cases). Offences under Act V of 1861 also increased from 38 in the preceding year to 60. In Cachar it is explained that the 55 offences committed under Act V of 1861 were mostly cases of drunkenness and violation of municipal bye-laws, in the majority of which the accused were punished with small fines. As regards offences under the Penal Code, the increase was chiefly due to offences connected with rioting, assault, causing hurt, theft, and dishonestly receiving stolen property. In Sylhet an increase occurred in offences under the heads of "Unlawful assembly and affray" and "Assault."

In Darrang there was a marked falling off in cases of rioting and theft, while in Nowgong the increase was mainly due to cases of rioting and theft, and in Sibságar to cases of "unlawful assembly" and affray and "theft." The four cases of murder which occurred in the Sibságar district do not call for special remark. In Lakhimpur the increase of cases under the Penal Code (from 63 to 87) is chiefly caused by more cases under the heads of "Theft" and "Lurking house trespass." Offences under "Other Acts" in this district fell from 126 in the preceding year to 26, the decrease being due to the fact that in 1889 an exceptionally large number of cases occurred under the excise and gambling Acts. In one of the two murder cases, which occurred in the Lakhimpur district, a non-Act coolie cut off the head of his wife with a *dao*, asserting that he had killed her by the order of the Mahárani. He was sentenced by the Court of Session to transportation for life. The other case of murder was of the ordinary type. In one case under section 211 of the Penal Code (false charge of offence) three coolies gave information to the police to the effect that a manager had murdered a coolie woman,

and volunteered to point out the place where the murdered woman was buried. Ultimately they admitted that the charge was a false one, and the woman was produced. The case was tried by the Deputy Commissioner, and the accused were sentenced one to 3 years' and two to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment.

In regard to the general increase shown under the heads of "Unlawful assembly" and "Rioting," attention is invited to Chapter VII of this report, where several cases which bear on the relations between employers and labourers are noticed.

The following table, which includes cases of desertion, compares the ratio of convictions to the tea garden population during the past two years :

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per centum of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Cachar	54,675	55,463	354	394	191	152	53	38
Sylhet	47,868	50,198	119	139	96	101	80	72
Kámrúp	2,010	2,038	19	22	7	19	36	86
Darrang	28,425	29,699	199	171	117	157	58	91
Nowgong	9,384	10,020	57	83	31	56	54	67
Sibságar	54,861	56,225	347	402	307	268	88	66
Lakhimpur	44,072	46,467	454	401	268	330	59	82
Total	241,297	250,113	1,549	1,612	1,017	1,083	65	67

There was thus but little difference between the provincial percentage of imprisonments to convictions during the two years, though the district percentages show considerable variations.

Provincial and district figures for desertions.

28. The following table shows the number of adult deserters, district by district, for the past two years :

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non-Act.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Cachar	2,598	2,973	740	600	1,858	2,373	6·88	6·58	4·23	5·12	4·75	5·35
Sylhet	3,194	3,004	824	635	2,370	2,369	8·48	6·72	6·18	5·80	6·65	5·98
Kámrúp	80	158	23	80	57	78	4·06	11·98	3·94	5·66	3·98	7·75
Darrang	912	1,259	535	585	377	674	3·22	3·21	3·14	5·84	3·20	4·24
Nowgong	481	370	152	142	329	228	5·77	4·58	4·85	3·30	5·12	3·69
Sibságar	1,547	1,524	852	789	695	735	2·57	2·27	3·19	3·42	2·81	2·71
Lakhimpur	1,715	1,479	1,159	1,051	556	428	4·75	4·00	2·79	2·11	3·89	3·18
Total	10,527	10,767	4,285	3,882	6,242	6,885	4·38	3·82	4·33	4·62	4·35	4·30

Here again while the provincial percentage of desertions corresponds closely with the figures for last year, the district percentages show considerable variations.

Arrests and convictions.

29. The following table shows the number of deserters in each district, the number of warrants issued for their arrest, and the number of convictions obtained :

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested.					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar	600	70	34	97	10	2	143	127
Sylhet	635	86	12	32	.....	.....	44	44
Kámrúp ...	80	12	12	.....	11	.....	23	16
Darrang ...	585	130	46	90	.....	3	139	122
Nowgong ...	142	18	1	19	.....	.....	20	20
Sibságar ...	789	142	45	89	66	5	205	182
Lakhimpur ...	1,051	128	143	121	.....	.....	264	247
Total for 1890 ...	3,882	586	293	448	87	10	838	758
„ 1889 ...	4,285	447	289	429	142	38	898	771

In the Resolution of the Revenue and Agricultural Department No. $\frac{167\text{-}189}{24\text{-}1}$ E., dated the 22nd January 1891, reviewing the Provincial Immigration Report for the year 1889, attention was called to the necessity for the exercise of care and discrimination in the infliction of sentences for desertion, and it was added that every magistrate should make special enquiries as to the healthiness or unhealthiness of the gardens from which desertions take place. These instructions were circulated on the 4th March 1891 to Deputy Commissioners, who were requested to give detailed information in the annual immigration report regarding the punishments inflicted in each case of desertion. Notwithstanding these instructions, the necessary information has not in all cases been supplied. In the case of Cachar, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"None of the persons convicted for desertion belonged to unhealthy gardens. The punishments inflicted on deserters were not unduly severe. Of the 127 persons convicted for desertion, 35 were imprisoned for one week, 29 for two weeks, 57 for one day, and 6 for one month. Of these six offenders, one was guilty of the offence a second time. They all were old coolies, and were earning fairly good wages."

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet has furnished no information whatever under this head. In the case of Kámrúp no reference is made to the point how far desertions occurred from healthy or unhealthy gardens, while as regards the punishments inflicted, it is said that of the 16 persons convicted of desertion, 14 were sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment and 2 to two months' rigorous imprisonment. These sentences, in the absence of special circumstances, and if they were for first offences under section 175 of the Act, appear excessive, and the attention of the Deputy Commissioner will be called to the matter. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang writes—

"Of the 122 persons convicted of desertion, 20 were sentenced to one week's rigorous imprisonment, 1 to ten days', 7 to three days', 55 to two weeks', 5 to three weeks', 29 to one month's, 1 to fifteen days', and 1 to five weeks' rigorous imprisonment; 1 was fined Rs. 7, and 2 sent back to garden to fulfil their contracts.

"The following statement gives the number of desertions among Act coolies from unhealthy gardens during the year 1890:

Tezpur	Barjuli	18
	Dolupadong	15
	Sadharughop	4
	Gellahating	21
	Ghogra	1
	Sonajuli	40
	Tarajuli	3
Mangaldai	Panbari	...
	Bhergaon	9
		111"

The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong reports that of the five unhealthy gardens of 1890, the following had desertions:

Owguri ...	3 desertions.
Old Salona	6 „
Ramsing grant	4 „

As regards the punishments inflicted in the case of the 20 coolies who were convicted of desertions, Major Gray writes—

"Of these, only 20 were arrested and convicted. The number arrested by managers has increased Of the 20 coolies convicted, two stated in their defence that they left their gardens under the advice of old coolies, who informed them that if they could not do the full quantum of work they would be whipped. Being unaccustomed to the sort of work they had to do on the garden, they were unable to do the usual full task, and accordingly deserted through fear of punishment.

"They were newly-imported coolies, and one of them had arrived on the garden only about a month before desertion, and said that he was not accustomed to do hoeing, as he was a shopkeeper in his ordinary vocation.

"These two coolies were convicted, and sentenced to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment. Besides these two, there were five others who, though they had no excuse in particular to offer for having run away, were newly-arrived coolies, who probably disliked their prospects. They also were convicted: four were sentenced to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment, and one to seven days' simple imprisonment.

"The following punishments were awarded to the rest of the deserter coolies:

Eight were sentenced to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment.
Two to one month's rigorous imprisonment.
One to three weeks' simple „
One to fourteen days' „ „
One to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment, but afterwards, at the manager's request, the order was cancelled, and the coolie was ordered to be made over again to the manager."

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar deals fully with the matter, and reports as follows :

" The total number of convictions for desertion under section 175 was 182, against 206 in the previous year, which is satisfactory. Of the 182 convictions, 5 persons, who had been previously convicted, were rigorously imprisoned for two months, 73 for one month, one for 21 days, 8 for 15 days, 47 for 14 days, 2 for ten days, 34 for seven days, and 2 for five days each ; 9 persons were sentenced to simple imprisonment for one day. One person was fined Rs. 15. The reason given for desertion in this case was that he left the garden to go to the Inspector of Labourers to apply for redemption of his contract, but he never took permission from the manager. The man afterwards redeemed his contract by paying Rs. 100. The Magistrate was of opinion that the coolie ought to have returned to the garden after filing his application, instead of which he was absent for two months. The punishment, however, seems to have been rather more severe than the circumstances of the case demanded. I have drawn the Magistrate's attention to this.

" In one case of desertion from Wokha garden, which is in the unhealthy list, a gang of 26 Kachari coolies absconded from the garden, taking with them everything they possessed. Mr. Robertson, the manager, followed after them, and tried to persuade them to return, but in vain. They were apprehended by the police, and on conviction before the Magistrate of Golághát, they were sentenced to seven days' rigorous imprisonment each. The reason given by them was that they were in arrears of pay. The Magistrate on enquiry found that they were in one and a half month's arrears. In another case of desertion from Dhansiri garden, which is also unhealthy, the accused stated as his reason for desertion that some Bengali coolies died of cholera, and he thought that he might die himself, as he was ill of dysentery. The man was punished with 14 days' rigorous imprisonment.

" Similarly, five persons, who absconded from the Rajabari garden in the sadr through fear of cholera, were imprisoned for one month each ; the garden is unhealthy. In this case the Magistrate found that every care was being taken of the coolies, and these coolies, whose agreements had two years to run, had the intention of absconding altogether, and not for a few days.

" I am of opinion that Magistrates have been generally very careful to take into consideration extenuating pleas in each case, such as unhealthiness of the locality, the character of the employer, &c. In some cases the accused have been held guilty ; but taking into consideration the character of the garden, the punishment inflicted has been nominal."

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur gives the following table showing the names of gardens which had a desertion rate of more than 4 per cent. in 1890 :

Name of garden.	Number of desertions in 1890.	Percentage of desertions.
1. Rahmaria Balijan	12	4·42
2. Sealkati	26	7·10
3. Lahwal	14	6·25
4. Bokul	44	16·70
5. Romari	43	8·81
6. Hilika	98	9·46
7. Hukanguri	174	21·78
8. Mesaijan	24	4·48
9. Samdang	56	19·59
10. Sookerating	23	5·08
11. Greenwood	19	6·80
12. Chota Hapjan	31	10·73
13. Deohal	7	8·04
14. Hatiali	12	13·85
15. Hukanpukri	19	8·01

Hukanguri was the worst in this respect with 21·78 per cent. Samdang comes next with 19·59 per cent. Of the 15 gardens in the list, 10 show a desertion rate of more than 7 per cent., and of these 10, 3, *viz.*, Hukanguri, Samdang, and Hatiali, were in the unhealthy list of 1890. Bokul shows a high rate of desertion, *viz.*, 16·70 per cent., but this garden has always been a healthy one. Greenwood, Chota Hapjan, Hilika, and Sealkati were in the black list for 1889.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes :

" The following table shows the punishment awarded in each case :

5	persons imprisoned for	2 months each.
1	person " "	6 weeks.
105	persons " "	1 month each.
34	" " "	21 days each.
2	" " "	20 ditto.
42	" " "	15 ditto.
20	" " "	14 ditto.
3	" " "	10 ditto.
9	" " "	7 ditto.
6	" " "	3 ditto.
7	" " "	2 ditto.
13	" " "	1 day each.
247		

" The above figures do not show the full number of prosecutions. In the case of one notorious garden, I had to order the police not to receive deserters unless witnesses were also sent with them to prosecute. In some cases, as no one appeared to prosecute, the coolies were simply sent back. There has been more discrimination in the award of punishments, although in the majority of cases the full penalty has been imposed."

The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, has called on the Deputy Commissioners for further particulars regarding the notorious garden referred to in the above extract, and the Chief Commissioner would be glad to see these when received.

Nationality and sex of deserters.

30. The nationality and sex of deserters are shown below :

Nationality.	Sex.	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Bengal	Men ..	412	427	629	846	1,041	1,273	4·32	4·76	3·29	4·31	3·21	2·05
	Women ..	222	209	535	634	757	843	2·50	2·49	2·89	3·32		
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.	Men ..	750	609	1,550	1,454	2,300	2,063	9·50	8·26	8·13	7·36	7·20	6·59
	Women ..	319	234	918	996	1,237	1,230	5·54	4·26	5·59	5·75		
Chota Nagpur ..	Men ..	1,709	1,518	923	1,012	2,632	2,530	5·07	4·33	3·05	3·20	3·29	3·07
	Women ..	603	544	706	797	1,309	1,341	2·13	1·78	2·57	2·77		
Nepal	Men ..	....	1	9	17	9	18	....	3·12	7·11	13·94	6·66	9·0
	Women ..	3	....	5	5	8	5	27·27	....	5·84	6·29		
Madras	Men ..	28	85	40	49	68	134	7·50	6·4	5·07	4·62	4·30	4·23
	Women ..	3	26	22	40	25	66	·98	1·96	3·21	3·71		
Bombay	Men ..	....	....	4	4	4	4	.. .	....	3·15	3·04	2·95	2·16
	Women ..	....	....	4	2	4	2	....	....	3·05	1·53		
Assam	Men ..	214	213	761	948	975	1,161	9·50	8·81	8·15	11·58	7·98	9·49
	Women ..	21	16	136	81	157	97	2·72	2·01	7·53	4·31		
Orissa	Men ..	1	....	....	....	1	....	25·00	....	.....	.....	2·50	....
	Women ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....	.....		
Total	Men ..	3,114	2,853	3,916	4,330	7,030	7,183	5·79	5·19	4·96	5·38	5·30	5·29
	Women ..	1,171	1,029	2,326	2,555	3,497	3,584	2·66	2·22	3·57	3·74	3·21	3·12
Grand total	.....	4,285	3,882	6,242	6,885	10,527	10,767	4·38	3·82	4·33	4·62	4·35	4·30

The above figures do not call for remark.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

Birth rate.

31. The following figures show the birth rate per mille during the past two years calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

	1889.	1890.
Cachar	132·3	116·5
Sylhet	106·3	91·9
Kámrúp	87·4	110·9
Darrang	77·6	52·0
Nowgong	95·7	81·4
Sibságar	96·6	89·3
Lakhimpur	92·3	79·3
Total	103·9	89·8

The attention of the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang will be drawn to the figures for that district, which point to very defective registration.

Birth rate according to nationality.

32. The following table distributes the births among the different nationalities, and strikes the ratio on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

District.	Bengal.			North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.			Chota Nagpur.			Nepal.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	9,756	1,058	108·4	7,357	1,080	146·7	7,473	778	104·1	56	1	17·8
Sylhet	6,171	465	75·3	10,060	1,053	104·6	6,748	628	93·0	6	1	166·6
Kámrúp	407	41	100·7	8	1	125·0	488	61	125·0	4	....	....
Darrang	2,614	117	44·7	1,122	56	49·9	7,258	372	51·2	18	3	166·6
Nowgong	587	90	153·3	166	18	108·4	2,967	192	64·7	2	....	....
Sibságar	5,292	377	71·2	3,035	261	85·9	17,001	1,640	96·4	11	....	....
Lakhimpur	2,558	123	48·0	1,030	55	53·3	17,206	1,461	84·9	1	....	....
Total of 1890	27,387	2,271	82·9	22,779	2,524	110·8	59,142	5,132	86·7	100	5	50·0
1889	27,312	2,548	93·2	22,100	2,688	121·4	55,563	5,789	104·1	99	6	60·6

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Assam.			Orissa.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	299	7	23·4	127	3	23·6	61	2	32·7	..	..	..	26,134	2,929	116·9
Sylhet	1,513	94	62·1	6	..	..	19	13	684·2	42	4	95·2	24,566	2,258	91·5
Kámrúp	12	..	..	..	..	..	63	6	95·2	..	..	....	982	109	110·9
Darrang	120	4	33·3	..	..	..	1,273	94	73·8	..	..	....	12,407	646	52·0
Nowgong	55	3	54·5	..	..	..	583	52	89·2	..	..	....	4,360	355	81·4
Sibságar	142	4	28·1	5	..	..	572	46	80·4	..	..	....	26,060	2,328	89·3
Lakhimpur	117	6	51·2	..	..	..	105	23	219·0	..	..	....	21,017	1,668	79·3
Total of 1890	2,259	118	52·2	138	3	21·7	2,676	236	88·1	42	4	95·2	114,527	10,293	89·8
„ 1889	1,013	64	63·1	137	3	21·8	2,590	222	85·7	11	2	188·8	108,828	11,317	103·9

Death rate for the year.

33. The statistics of mortality in each district for each half year separately are given in the table below with the corresponding figures of the previous year :

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers, including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half yearly.				Annual.	
	First half year.		Second half year.		Total.		First half year.		Second half year.			
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Cachar	2,094	1,222	1,939	1,604	4,033	2,826	21·7	12·3	19·6	16·0	41·3	28·3
Sylhet	1,452	1,048	1,422	1,337	2,874	2,385	19·7	13·0	18·0	16·1	37·7	29·1
Kámrúp	96	159	86	149	182	308	31·3	49·2	26·0	48·0	57·3	97·2
Darrang	896	658	840	847	1,736	1,505	22·7	15·5	20·3	19·3	43·1	34·8
Nowgong	272	301	324	220	596	521	44·9	20·0	57·8	14·0	102·7	34·0
Sibságar	1,693	1,884	1,991	1,745	3,684	3,629	19·7	20·8	22·2	18·9	41·9	39·7
Lakhimpur	1,295	1,236	1,812	1,539	3,107	2,775	19·8	17·4	26·0	21·0	45·8	38·4
Total	7,798	6,508	8,414	7,441	16,212	13,949	20·6	16·2	21·2	18·1	41·8	34·3

It is satisfactory to notice that the annual death rate, both for the Province as a whole and for each district except Kámrúp, showed a substantial reduction. In the case of some districts this reduction is mainly due to comparative immunity from cholera, and in all cases it was doubtless partially due to the falling off which occurred in the importation of new, and consequently unacclimatized, labourers, and to the fact that the year was a healthy one. In Kámrúp the increase which took place is ascribed to *kála-azár*. In some cases the rate is suspiciously low, and points to defective registration. Thus the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang writes—

"I have come across a case recently in which the deaths of Act coolies were not recorded because they occurred in a neighbouring *basti* and not on the garden."

Death-rate among adults.

34. The following table shows the mortality among both Act and non-Act adults during the past two years :

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Cachar	808	545	1,814	1,180	2,622	1,725	75·0	60·3	41·3	25·4	47·9	31·0	54,675	55,463
Sylhet..	686	536	1,322	1,129	2,008	1,665	70·6	57·0	34·6	27·5	41·9	33·0	47,868	50,198
Kámrúp	39	89	84	126	123	215	70·2	133·3	58·2	91·4	61·1	105·4	2,010	2,038
Darrang	1,033	910	306	306	1,339	1,216	62·6	49·6	25·6	26·5	47·1	40·9	28,425	29,699
Nowgong	178	154	232	231	410	385	66·9	49·8	34·3	33·4	43·6	38·5	9,384	10,020
Sibságar	1,836	1,637	745	738	2,581	2,575	55·3	52·8	34·2	34·2	47·0	45·7	54,861	56,225
Lakhimpur	1,622	1,582	617	580	2,239	2,162	66·5	60·1	31·0	28·6	50·8	46·5	44,072	46,467
Total	6,202	5,653	5,120	4,290	11,322	9,943	63·5	55·6	35·6	28·8	46·9	39·7	241,297	250,113

Except in Kámrúp and Darrang there was thus less mortality both amongst Act and non-Act adults than during the preceding year, and consequently (with the same

exceptions) the ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength shows a more or less satisfactory reduction.

35. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths that occurred amongst Act labourers during the past two years :

Causes of deaths among Act coolies.

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1890.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half year.	Second half year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1890	9,653	8,688	148	131	122	30	....	114	206	339	545	60·3
	1889	10,984	10,569	245	145	98	43	....	277	388	420	808	75·0
Sylhet	1890	9,551	9,256	71	112	53	90	15	195	239	297	536	57·0
	1889	9,542	9,905	228	148	62	62	....	195	385	301	686	70·6
Kámrúp	1890	652	681	9	9	47*	....	....	24	40	49	89	133·3
	1889	538	599	6	7	4	2	....	20	27	12	39	70·2
Darrang	1890	17,614	18,802	69	202	134	86	134	285	367	543	910	49·6
	1889	16,034	16,967	293	250	52	74	93	271	520	513	1,033	62·6
Nowgong	1890	2,985	3,236	40	24	5	5	5	75	90	64	154	49·8
	1889	2,505	2,765	67	42	9	13	....	47	69	109	178	66·9
Sibságar	1890	34,252	35,217	501	366	135	81	73†	681	971	866	1,837	52·8
	1889	32,354	33,352	408	547	136	116	77	552	817	1,019	1,836	55·3
Lakhimpur	1890	25,658	26,803	259	348	107	75	167	636	693	889	1,582	60·1
	1889	23,332	25,115	328	339	164	142	120	529	650	972	1,622	66·5
Total of..	1890	100,367	102,684	1,097	1,192	603	367	394	2,009	2,606	3,047	5,653	55·6
	1889	95,289	99,774	1,565	1,478	526	452	290	1,891	2,856	3,346	6,202	63·5
	1888	85,444	88,783	1,312	1,211	409	269	....	2,293	2,543	2,951	5,494	62·9

* Includes 40 deaths from *kála-azár*. † Includes one death from *kála-azár*.

Taking the Province as a whole, a more or less substantial decrease of deaths occurred under the heads of "Cholera," "Dysentery," and "Dropsy," while an increase occurred under "Jungle fever," "Anæmia," and "Other causes."

Both of the Surma Valley districts show a very considerable reduction in the number of deaths from cholera. In Cachar a decrease took place under each head of disease except "Jungle fever," while in Sylhet the only heads which showed an increase were "Dropsy" and "Anæmia." The deaths from *kála-azár* which occurred in the Kámrúp district will be discussed later on in connection with the unhealthy gardens. Darrang shows a large decrease under "Cholera," but an increase under all other heads except "Dysentery." In Nowgong a decrease occurred under all heads except "Anæmia" and "Other causes." As regards deaths from cholera the Deputy Commissionerof Nowgong writes :

"Though cholera was in the district only in a sporadic form during the year under report, it caused a good many deaths, and principally in the following eight gardens, *viz.*, Sokunbari 9 deaths, Lungsung 6, Ram Sing Grant 26, Kellyden 7, Amguri 10, Rengbeng 16, Rangamati 8, and Old Salona 6. Cholera deaths were heavy in the two gardens, Ram Sing Grant and Rengbeng. No special cause can be assigned for the presence of cholera in the year 1890. There were altogether 132 deaths from cholera in the year, against 125 in 1889.

"All the gardens affected with cholera were visited by myself and Dr. McNaught. Mortality generally was higher in the first half of 1890, as will appear from the figures in the foregoing table. A great improvement seemed to take place in the second half of the year. This is to be attributed to the appearance of cholera in the first half of the year and its marked abatement in the second half. Managers also made strenuous efforts to check the disease as far as they could. As cholera existed only in a sporadic form, its appearance on these gardens was not specially reported to us by the managers. It was from the statistics obtained at the time of inspection that the disease was found to have visited these gardens.

"The Civil Medical Officer, who was deputed to inspect the Rengbeng tea-garden, accounted for the cholera deaths there as follows :

"'The coolies are principally Gáros and Kacharis, &c. The Gáros can hardly be prevailed on to take medicine They think that all ailments are due to the action of demons, and that the only cure is to propitiate by sacrifices. On this account they refuse medicines, as being likely to anger the demons they believe in and fear. The Kachari lines are placed further down the bank of the Rengbeng stream on a site that is sufficiently elevated and drained. They use the water from the Rengbeng stream also. During May 1890 there was a sharp outbreak of cholera, mostly confined to the Kachari lines. Cholera was prevalent at the time in some of the Assamese villages not far distant. Kacharis, as a rule, also have little faith in medicines. It is said that a couple of cases of cholera occurred in the Gáro lines first, and after this the disease appeared in the Kachari lines, and was then confined to them. Two-thirds of the deaths were from cholera.'

"The deaths at the time of inspection were 24 ; of these 16 were from cholera."

Sibságar shows a considerable increase of deaths from cholera, and a reduction under all other heads except "Other causes," of which no less than 48 are assigned to influenza. In Lakhimpur an increase occurred under the heads of "Dysentery," "Anæmia," and "Other causes," and a decrease under the remaining heads of "Cholera," "Jungle fever," and "Dropsy." This increase under "Other causes" is assigned to influenza.

In accordance with the orders of the Government of India, Deputy Commissioners were directed in circular letter No. 700—19J., dated the 4th March 1891, to see that a

vigorous endeavour was made to have cases of "Coolies' anæmia" correctly returned, and specially to notice in their annual reports the efforts made to combat this disease and the success attending them. Several of the present reports contain no separate reference to the matter, and it should be understood that in future the question should be fully discussed in those paragraphs of the report which relate to the causes of mortality (paragraphs 35 and 36) amongst Act and non-Act coolies. It is clear that the statistics recorded under this head in the present report are altogether untrustworthy. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang merely remarks —

"The number of deaths attributed to anæmia and other causes seems to point to careless classification."

The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong writes —

"The hotel system of dieting anæmic and sickly coolies has been adopted on many gardens in this district, and is reported to have worked very beneficially. *Thymol* treatment has also been largely employed with good effect."

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports —

"The general decrease in deaths from dysentery, dropsy, and anæmia is satisfactory, as indicating an abatement of the fatal effects of *anchylostomiasis*. I am glad to record that Dr. Banerji in his inspections has paid great attention to this question, both in detecting unsuspected cases of incipient *beri-beri* among the working coolies and insisting on the proper treatment of sick coolies whose cases had not been properly diagnosed. A few cases of *anchylostomiasis* may have resulted fatally owing to complications brought on by influenza, but the deaths returned as due to influenza are too few to affect the conclusions arrived at above."

36. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths amongst adult non-Act coolies during the past two years :

Causes of deaths among non-Act coolies.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act labourers employed in 1890.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half year.	Second half year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1890 ..	45,606	46,978	239	149	273	49	3	467	601	579	1,180	25·4
	1889 ..	43,121	44,677	381	201	351	61	....	320	1,010	804	1,814	41·3
Sylhet	1890 ..	40,151	41,438	135	236	182	111	11	454	496	633	1,129	27·5
	1889 ..	37,148	39,141	299	229	225	95	4	470	654	668	1,322	34·6
Kámrúp	1890 ..	1,415	1,328	16	12	64*	....	....	34	72	54	126	91·4
	1889 ..	1,401	1,482	5	12	29	6	....	32	42	42	84	58·2
Darrang	1890 ..	11,599	11,384	15	49	43	25	30	144	160	146	306	26·5
	1889 ..	12,038	11,810	96	48	23	17	22	100	181	125	306	25·6
Nowgong	1890 ..	6,831	6,989	72	22	37	13	3	84	146	85	231	33·4
	1889 ..	6,828	6,670	29	28	44	24	....	107	108	124	232	34·8
Sibságar	1890 ..	21,533	21,448	232	103	57	29	18	299	439	299	738	34·2
	1889 ..	21,560	21,956	191	145	55	36	23	295	387	358	745	34·2
Lakhimpur	1890 ..	20,192	20,281	90	81	61	32	25	291	311	269	580	28·6
	1889 ..	19,541	20,156	103	118	72	40	17	267	272	345	617	31·0
Total of	1890 ..	147,328	149,847	799	652	717	259	90	1,773	2,225	2,065	4,290	28·8
	1889 ..	141,638	145,893	1,104	781	799	279	66	2,091	2,654	2,466	5,120	35·6
	1888 ..	129,915	135,581	776	602	466	296	....	1,868	2,067	1,941	4,008	30·2

* Includes 37 deaths from *kála-azár*.

It is scarcely necessary to analyze these figures in detail. Taking the Province as a whole, there was a decrease under each head of disease except anæmia, the figures recorded in which case are, however, obviously below the truth.

37. The statement below shows the death rate among children (that is, from birth to the age of 16 years) during the last two years :

Death rate among children.

District.	Mean strength of children in 1890.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Total of 1889.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half year.	Second half year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.		1890.	1889.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar	44,058	44,401	161	193	178	46	....	523	415	686	1,101	1,411	24·8	32·7
Sylhet	30,662	31,917	52	107	207	40	4	310	313	407	720	866	22·9	30·6
Kámrúp	1,163	1,091	6	10	46*	....	....	31	47	46	93	59	82·5	50·0
Darrang	13,157	13,560	15	49	43	25	30	127	131	158	289	397	21·5	33·4
Nowgong	5,183	5,441	20	10	36	4	4	62	65	71	136	186	25·5	38·0
Sibságar	34,597	35,400	179	199	196	33	16	431	474	580	1,054	1,103	30·0	33·4
Lakhimpur	25,154	26,168	43	130	158	16	20	246	232	381	613	868	23·7	37·1
Total of 1890	153,974	157,978	476	698	864	164	74	1,730	1,677	2,329	4,006	....	25·6	....
„ 1889	140,555	149,915	870	921	978	261	75	1,785	2,288	2,602	4,890	4,890	....	33·5

* Includes 24 deaths from *kála-azár*.

If, as was pointed out by the Deputy Surgeon General in connection with last year's report, it is the case that the normal death rate among children from birth to 14 years of age is 48·83 per mille, it is clear that the registration under this head is altogether defective and valueless, more especially when it is remembered that the conditions of child life on tea gardens are the reverse of favourable to health, involving, as they do, much exposure to chills and wet.

Order of demerit as regards death rate.

38. The following is the order of demerit of the various districts both with regard to the mortality among the three different classes of the labour force and to the total mortality:

	Order of mortality among			
	Act adults.	Non-Act adults.	Children.	Total.
Cachar ...	2	7	4	7
Sylhet... ...	4	5	6	6
Kámrúp ...	1	1	1	1
Darrang ...	7	6	7	4
Nowgong ...	6	3	3	5
Sibságar ...	5	2	2	2
Lakhímpur ...	3	4	5	3

From the above figures it will be seen that Kámrúp is the most unhealthy district, whatever test may be applied. Nowgong has improved its position considerably, whereas both Sibságar and Lakhímpur have retrograded. Darrang remains where it was for the preceding year as regards total mortality, and Sylhet and Cachar have changed places.

Mortality according to the country of origin.

39. The statement below shows the mortality distributed according to nationality, and gives figures for adults only:

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Bengal ...	Men ...	1,077	859	38·4	29·0	55,925	55,919
	Women..	1,072	763				
North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar	Men ..	1,401	1,165	50·8	43·0	49,004	49,893
	Women..	1,092	981				
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	3,287	2,976	53·2	45·0	119,423	125,750
	Women..	3,070	2,689				
Nepal	Men ...	2	5	23·6	31·3	254	255
	Women..	4	3				
Madras	Men ...	55	119	47·9	56·6	2,190	4,624
	Women..	50	143				
Bombay	Men ...	4	2	18·4	14·3	271	278
	Women..	1	2				
Assam	Men ...	139	167	14.5	17·6	14,199	13,295
	Women..	68	67				
Orissa	Men ...	.....	1	...	20·8	27	96
	Women..	.....	1				
Total	Men ...	5,265	5,294	45·0	39·0	132,469	135,586
	Women..	5,357	4,649	49·2	40·5	108,828	114,527
Grand total	.....	11,322	9,943	46·9	39·7	241,297	250,113

The figures in the above table show the same order of mortality as in the preceding year between immigrants from Chota Nagpur, the North Western Provinces and Oudh, and Bengal. In the case of immigrants from each of these three main localities of recruitment there was a considerable reduction in the death rate, which however increased in the case of immigrants from Nepal, Madras, and Assam.

40. The following statement shows the proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district. All gardens which have ten or more deaths on them during the year and the death rate in which exceeds 7 per cent. are classed as unhealthy gardens :

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

District.	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	184	187	12	12	6·5	6·5
Sylhet	114	115	10	11	8·7	9·5
Kámrúp	89	89	1	8	1·1	8·9
Darrang	86	89	21	9	24·4	10·1
Nowgong	61	61	6	5	9·8	8·1
Sibságar	211	215	33	27	15·6	12·5
Lakhimpur	151	151	27	15	17·8	9·9
Total	896	907	110	87	12·2	9·5

Thus, while the proportion of unhealthy gardens for the Province as a whole shows a reduction as compared with the previous year, an increase took place in Sylhet and Kámrúp, while the figures for Cachar remained the same. The decrease in the case of Darrang and Lakhimpur, and to a smaller extent in Nowgong and Sibságar, is satisfactory. As explaining the real import of the above table the following passage is quoted from the Provincial Report of 1889 : " It must, however, be remembered that in accordance with the remarks made on this subject in paragraph 58 of last year's report, the list of unhealthy gardens now includes all gardens on which the average mortality, either for the garden population as a whole, or for the Act or for the non-Act labourers, taken separately, exceeds 7 per cent., and the number of deaths from which the average is struck exceeds 10. The former practice was to strike the average of mortality on the whole population, and the increase in the number of unhealthy gardens shown in the present report is doubtless largely due to the new method of calculating the mortality."

In connection with unhealthy gardens generally, it may be convenient to refer here to the remarks made by the Government of India when reviewing the Provincial Report for 1889. On that occasion the Governor-General in Council observed —

" It appears that a considerable number of gardens have appeared for several years running on the unhealthy list. For instance, in the Cachar district four gardens are described as 'inveterate offenders.' This is a state of things which demands decided action. Whether it may be necessary to strengthen the law or not is a matter for consideration, but there can be no good reasons why Committees should not assemble with promptitude or why periodic reports should not be exacted regarding the extent to which the Committee's recommendations have been carried out. A reasonable time should be prescribed for carrying them into effect, and failure to do so should entail the closure of the garden. No time should be lost in considering the necessity of closing such gardens as Mesaijan and Hukanguri in the Lakhimpur district and the four gardens above mentioned in Cachar. Future reports should show all gardens that have appeared more than two years running on the black list."

With a view to give effect to these orders, Deputy Commissioners were instructed on the 4th March 1891—(1) to show separately in their annual reports and to discuss the case of each garden which had appeared more than two years running on the black list, and (2) to describe in regard to each garden appearing on the unhealthy list what action had been taken as to (*a*) the assembling of Committees and (*b*) ensuring that the recommendations of the Committees are carried into effect.

In the following paragraphs each district will be taken up separately, and the cause of unhealthiness will be discussed.

41. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Cachar, and show the causes of deaths which occurred in them :

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

Unhealthy on Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Sadr	Panicherra	106	91	3	8	11	28·3	87·9	116·2
	Mulidhar	82	83	1	9	10	12·1	108·4	120·5
	Daluncherra	42	44	4	6	10	95·2	136·3	231·5
	Dulargram	334	340	9	16	25	26·9	47·0	73·9
	Palarband	164	150	5	10	15	30·4	66·6	97·0
	Kumbirgram	184	169	6	8	14	32·6	47·3	79·9
	Baladhan	184	156	8	6	14	43·4	38·4	81·8
	Alni	147	130	5	7	12	34·0	53·8	87·8
Hailákándi	Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	154	135	9	12	21	58·4	88·8	147·2
	Lalamukh	411	308	12	46	58	29·1	149·3	178·4
	Ainakhal	398	363	6	28	34	15·0	77·1	92·1
	Total	2,206	1,969	68	156	224	30·8	79·2	110·0

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Panicherra	..	4	1	..	..	6	11
	Mulidhar	..	4	2	1	..	3	10
	Daluncherra	6	..	4	..	..	..	10
	Dulargram	3	9	2	..	..	11	25
	Palarband	..	11	2	2	..	..	15
	Kumbirgram	..	4	2	..	..	8	14
	Baladhan	..	6	..	..	..	8	14
	Alni	1	3	..	1	2	5	12
Hailákándi	Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	2	1	..	4	1	13	21
	Lalamukh	3	12	4	17	..	22	58
	Ainakhal	1	20	..	2	..	11	34
	Total	14	74	17	27	3	89	224

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Sadr	Nagadum ...	327	350	22	13	35	67·2	37·1	104·3

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Nagadum ...	8	11	6	3	...	7	35

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population only.

With the exception of two gardens, *viz.*, Mulidhar and Kumbirgram, all the unhealthy gardens have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his inspection reports :

PANICHERRA (*inspected on the 25th May 1891*)—

"First half—
Free labourers 2, children 2—
1 dysentery.
1 bronchitis } (after influenza).
1 pneumonia }
1 asthma.
Act coolies 3—
2 dysentery.
1 bronchitis (after influenza).

Second half—
Free labourers 2, children 3*—
2 dysentery.
2 fever.
1 diarrhœa.
Act-coolies 8—
2 dysentery.
5 diarrhœa.
1 fever.

* One fever, two effects of influenza.

"Influenza has caused much of the sickness in this garden and subsequent death. Several of the dysentery and diarrhœa cases were due to this cause. Their general health was previously undermined by the epidemic, and they had not strength to rally after an attack of dysentery or diarrhœa. The lines should be very healthy, situated in cultivated ground and on the banks of the Jatinga river, whilst from their position they are not exposed to the gorge winds that affect many gardens in North Cachar.

"Their drinking water is also good; hill streams clear and pellucid in appearance. The river, particularly in the cold weather and after the first rush down of the rains, is also good.

"The local market is well supplied with vegetables according to time of year and other food stuffs. I noticed no signs of *anchylostomiasis* amongst the coolies, nor did there appear to have been any deaths due to this cause."

DALUCHERRA (*inspected on the 25th May 1891*)—

"First half—
Free labourer 1, children 1—
1 fever.
1 diarrhœa.
Act coolies 4—
2 fever.
2 cholera.

Second half—
Free labourers 2, children none—
1 fever.
1 cholera.
Act coolies 6—
2 fever.
4 cholera.

"This garden shows high mortality amongst Act coolies only, but this is based on a small number of coolies under the Act, about 42 first half and 44 the second half; but it is also due to cholera—an unpreventable cause. Six deaths occurred from this amongst the contract coolies and 1 in the free labourers. Cholera had been in the neighbouring villages, and was unfortunately brought into the tea garden.

"The lines are well placed and drained, and good water supplied for drinking as a rule. This is a healthy garden. The bázár is well supplied with food stuff.

"There have been no cases of *anchylostomiasis* detected amongst the coolies."

DULARGRAM (*inspected on the 13th May 1891*)—

"First half—
Free labourers, adults, and children 2—
1 abortion.
1 dysentery.
Act coolies 9—
2 cholera.
1 pneumonia.
1 bronchitis.
1 pleurisy.
2 fever.
1 dysentery.
1 *anchylostomiasis*.

Second half—
Free labourers, adults 5—
1 abortion.
1 cholera.
1 dropsy.
1 dysentery.
1 bronchitis.
Children 14—
7 fever.
6 dysentery.
1 diarrhœa.
Act labourers 16—
1 pneumonia.
1 gastrites.
8 dysentery.
2 diarrhœa.
1 bronchitis.
1 cholera.
1 suicide.
1 *anchylostomiasis*.

"Of the above deaths, 14 occurred from the after-effect of influenza. This disease was very prevalent in the garden last year, and many cases were entirely off all work for some time, as many as a hundred and more being ill at the same time. All classes were affected, men, women, and children. The system being previously weakened by this disease and before convalescence had set in any ailment they contracted proved fatal. There were two cases of abortion, and both appear to have been induced, and not from natural causes.

"Three cases of cholera.

"Of dysentery, of which there were upwards of 17, 6 amongst children and 9 amongst Act coolies. All of these had been affected by the epidemic of influenza, and the disease (dysentery) proved too strong for treatment in an already weakened constitution. Of those affected in the Act coolies, they were originally not a strong healthy batch of coolies imported in 1889 from Hazaribagh.

" Wells are provided for drinking, and the water is good and sufficient. There are many tanks (natural) formed between the *tilas*, and these are supposed to be used only for bathing and washing clothes in, but it is difficult to prevent the coolies sometimes drinking this water, although strict orders are given about it.

" The food-supply is good and ample with bázár well supplied with vegetables according to season.

" There is but little of the disease *anchylostomiasis*, and only two deaths have occurred from it.

" Had it not been for the outbreak of influenza, this garden would have been a healthy one."

PALARBAND (*inspected on the 18th May 1891*)—

" First half—
Free labourers 23, children 13—
24 dysentery.
7 fever.
1 cholera.
1 general dropsy.
1 hemoptysis.
1 gastrites.
1 murder.
Act coolies 5—
3 dysentery.
2 fever.

Second half—
Free labourers 18, children 11—
13 dysentery.
5 pneumonia.
2 cholera.
7 general dropsy.
1 fever.
1 cold.
Act coolies 10—
8 dysentery.
2 dropsy.

" The mortality from dysentery in particular at this garden has been very high ; 48 deaths have occurred from this disease alone.

" There is no doubt that the majority of the coolies suffering from this disease have, in spite of the well-water provided, used against all orders water from the river and *bhil*. It is most difficult, and in many cases impossible, to obviate this if a river is near the lines. At the same time I wrote in my report of last year that on my visit I found a serious outbreak of influenza then raging on the garden, 80 or more being on the sick list at one time. This no doubt has helped to weaken the health of the coolies generally, and they have more easily and readily succumbed to any other disease they have contracted. My prognosis of last year has, I am sorry to say, not proved correct, and the mortality is very high.

" No doubt many of the coolies, as mentioned in my last year's report and also alluded to in the manager's letter dated the 23rd May 1890, which I beg to forward, were totally unsuited for labour here—weakly, sickly, and speedily sank under any ordinary attack of disease.

" *Anchylostomiasis* is also amongst the coolies. Many of the dropsy, and some no doubt of the dysentery are due to this cause. Both Dr. Dundee, the medical officer to the company, and the native doctor on the garden are fully alive to the treatment of this disease, and the appropriate drug, thymol, is largely used.

" The bázár is well supplied with all kinds of food stuff according to the time of year.

" Water is carried out for the coolies to drink during the time they are at work to prevent them using *bhil* water. The *bhils* themselves are being rapidly drained and planted with tea, and this will undoubtedly render the garden a very much more healthy one."

A copy of the report made last year by the Civil Surgeon on the above garden was sent to the manager of the garden, who in returning the report wrote—

" In forwarding you the enclosed, I would like to explain that the high mortality last year was due to the sickly new coolies supplied, amongst whom 50 of the deaths occurred. Why they came to the labour districts I am unable to say, unless it was to decrease the mortality in their own province. A large proportion of the new coolies were free labourers and put under Act XIII on the garden, and also there was a large *chálán* of Uriyas from Ganjam ; these also appear amongst non-Act coolies. The recommendations of last year as to drinking water-supply were faithfully carried out, with the result that the total deaths were reduced during the year by 33 deaths, and a similar improvement continues to take place. The work of preventing the coolies from drinking river and *bhil* water was of course very gradual in its effects, the conservatism of coolies in this respect being hard to overcome. A lot of money has been spent in making new and clearing old wells, and all lines are now well provided. The greatest number of deaths occurred in June, when the influenza epidemic was at its worst, and though the primary cause of these deaths was not influenza, yet there was no doubt that the coolies' constitutions were undermined, and they were thus unable to withstand any other disease with which they happened to be attacked. The average daily sick during June with influenza was 41, reaching on many days up to 80."

BALADHAN (*inspected on the 19th May 1891*)—

" First half of 1890—
Free labourers 1, children 5—
3 dysentery.
1 diarrhœa.
1 cholera.
1 fever.
Act coolies 8—
4 dysentery.
1 diarrhœa.
1 jaundice,
2 accidental drowning.

Second half—
Free labourers 4, and children 9—
1 *angina pectoris* (heart disease).
1 debility.
4 diarrhœa.
4 fever.
1 dysentery.
1 jaundice.
1 unknown .
Act coolies 6—
4 diarrhœa.
2 dysentery.

" The main factor in this mortality is due to *anchylostomiasis*, which is very prevalent in this garden. I inspected the sick on the day of visiting the garden with Dr. Dundee, the medical officer

and we found at least twelve well-marked cases and others that appeared suspiciously like the commencement of the disease.

"I have no doubt myself that it has been originally imported by the weakly, sickly coolies that have been persistently sent up and reported on year after year as being totally unfit for labour in this garden or any other like it. It is a very jungly *tila* garden situated on the borders of the district near the Manipur frontier, and I consider the agents who send or permit such coolies to be imported responsible for much of this mortality. I may mention they offered the manager, Mr. Cockburn, a batch of similar coolies this year, but he has very wisely declined them. They (the coolies) are supposed to be cheap, but they turn out a very dear bargain.

"Influenza has also been very prevalent last year, and caused much illness and indirectly many of the deaths; five at least were due to the after-effects of this disease. But the site of the lines, situated, as they are, on small *tilas* on the banks of a river, which is anything but good for drinking during the commencement of the rains and during them, is anything but sanitary. On my last inspection, the then manager, Mr. Horne, informed me that he intended moving the greater part, if not the whole, of the huts to another site, and hoped to do so before the close of the cold season of 1890-91, but this has not been done. No blame can be attached to the present manager, Mr. Cockburn; he knew nothing of this, and came too late to do so if he had, but most certainly this should be done as soon as practicable.

"Wells are provided for the use of the coolies, and all means are taken to induce them to use this water, and chaukidárs are kept to enforce compliance with this necessary rule, but not always effectually; and in spite of all this the coolies do get to and drink the river water. The lines must be removed away from the neighbourhood of the river or any *bhil* water, of which latter much is near to and between the *tilas*.

"The garden is otherwise good, and should, for properly-selected coolies, be a healthy one.

"The local bázár is well supplied with food stuffs.

"A copy of the above remarks will be sent to the manager."

The Deputy Commissioner in forwarding the above report writes—

"I think that no more importation should be allowed for this garden till the lines are removed to a better site away from the river, and wells provided near the lines."

ALNI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"First half—
Free labourers 6, children 4—
4 diarrhœa.
1 dysentery.
1 anæmia (*anchylostomiasis*).
1 fever.
1 cholera.
1 influenza.
1 convulsion.
Act coolies 5—
2 dysentery.
2 anæmia (*anchylostomiasis*).
1 bronchitis.

Second half—
Free labourers 11, children 1—
8 dysentery and diarrhœa (*anchylostomiasis*).
1 cholera.
1 influenza.
1 pneumonia.
1 dropsy.
Act coolies 6—
1 pneumonia after influenza.
2 diarrhœa.
1 cholera.
1 dropsy.
1 dysentery.

'The garden was badly affected by influenza last year and although the disease did not, except in two of the cases recorded in the returns cause death, yet it so weakened the others that undoubtedly it was a main factor in swelling the death rate. It is also prevalent in many of the sick in hospital. *Anchylostomiasis* also has been and is present in the garden. Many of the so-called chronic dysentery and diarrhœa have been the effects of this disease. Amongst the sick last mentioned, I pointed out many of the so-called fever cases to be purely influenza. This disease this year does not always show itself with catarrhal symptoms, running at the nose and eyes, but it has the typical intense front headache, tightness across the chest, oppression in breathing, cough and continued high temperature. I also pointed out to the manager, Mr. Grierson, and to the native doctor many cases of *anchylostomiasis*.

"The deaths this half year have been 18 of all classes, four of which at least were from *anchylostomiasis*, some of the dysentery and diarrhœa also I feel certain might safely be put down to the same disease. Pneumonia and bronchitis and cholera were the other causes of the deaths.

"I requested the Manager to insist on his native doctor making an inspection of all coolies at muster and by that means spotting *anchylostomiasis* before it has reached a chronic state. The symptoms at first are so typical that it is easy to diagnose this disease, and then if a patient is put under treatment at once with the proper drugs, a cure can be effected; it is when the disease is allowed to get too strong a hold on a patient that treatment is often abortive and useless.

"Another point I asked the Manager to carry out, was to give the sick suffering from this disease stimulants at least twice a day; the more I see of this complaint the more certain I am that they require stimulants as well as food and medicines. The situation of the lines is fairly open, they are on the banks of the river Barak, the garden itself on high tilas 350 feet above the river and the lines were at one time there, but it was considered not healthy, and they have been removed down to their present site.

"River water is used by the coolies principally, as well as hill streams; the latter I have asked the manager to prohibit as far as possible. Wells are utterly useless, the coolies will not use them when the river is so near.

"The ground in and near the lines and hospital is periodically dug up and turned over. I have given certain other instructions to the manager and hope that the high death rate will cease."

The Deputy Commissioner writes—

"Calls for little remark. It is to be hoped the measures ordered by the Civil Surgeon will prevent the further spread of *anchylostomiasis* here."

ROSEKANDI, ROSEPUR, AND ETIPUR (*date of inspection not given*)—

"This garden is composed of three gardens under the generic name of Rosekandi, the one that had the high death rate is 'Mains.'

"First half. Free labourers 18, children 11—

6 pneumonia and bronchitis.	3 cholera, 1 died in dispensary before reaching the garden.
3 dropsy.	4 fever.
3 asthma.	1 apoplexy.
3 diarrhœa and dysentery.	3 infantile diseases.
2 anæmia.	1 scrofula.

"Act coolies 9—

3 cholera.	
1 dysentery.	1 anæmia.
3 dropsy.	1 asthma.

"Second half. Free labourers. Adults 17, children 19—.

9 *anchylostomiasis*	1 phthisis.
3 dropsy.	1 asthma.
1 bronchitis.	7 fever.
7 dysentery and diarrhœa.	1 leprosy.
5 anæmia.	1 infantile disease.

"Act coolies 12—

8 *anchylostomiasis*.	1 dropsy.
1 diarrhœa.	1 debility.

"Of the above, 18 deaths have been returned as from (*beri-beri*) *anchylostomiasis*, but by enquiries I have made and comparing notes with the manager there is no doubt that many others have died from this disease, and I have no doubt to the above 18 at least as many more should be added, *viz.*, all the anæmia (debility) cases, also the dropsy and most if not all the dysentery and diarrhœa. There have been also 6 cases of cholera.

"Influenza was also very bad last year, 70 to 80 being ill and off work at a time, and, although no deaths have been returned from this cause, yet the effects of this epidemic have been shown in the death rate, as it undoubtedly helped to swell the mortality.

"This garden has been hitherto nearly free of *anchylostomiasis* until a most indifferent sickly batch or batches of North Western Province coolies were imported, 88, 89 and 90, who were suffering with the disease at the time and brought it up with them. From them it spread to many of the old coolies who had previously been exempt from this disease. This is about the first garden that has shown the infectiousness or contagiousness of *anchylostomiasis* so well marked. Children as well as adults were suffering from it, and many of the children undoubtedly died of it.

"On my visit of inspection I saw several cases still suffering from it, but the virulence of it has I hope passed away, and if care in treating those still suffering and due steps be taken with regard to their drinking water not being contaminated, the disease should be stamped out. Their drinking water in this garden, 'Mains,' is from principally two sources, *viz.*, wells and tanks, the latter I have condemned and they were the principal source of the disease spreading, One of the tanks is to be entirely done away with, the other is only to be used for bathing purposes, and steps are to be taken to prevent as far as possible the coolies drinking it and carrying it away to their houses.

"The wells (*pucca*) are good, well protected and covered in and contain good water. No other water is to be allowed to be used for drinking and cooking. The tanks must be used for bathing purposes, as there is nowhere else for the coolies to go to at least during this present season.

"I have sent full particulars to the manager of the symptoms and treatment of this disease and pointed out that several of the cases that were on the sick list were suffering from this disease (*anchylostomiasis*) and not from other complaints, although their symptoms may have led the native doctor to imagine the coolies were ill with only ordinary diarrhœa and dysentery. The signs of the disease once grasped cannot be mistaken or overlooked, more particularly the deadly white conjunction of the eye and the peculiar tongue. The food supply and general situation of the lines are both good.

"I have requested the manager that those suffering from *anchylostomiasis* may be segregated as far as possible, their excreta disinfected and buried in latrines, the latter as far away as possible from contaminating the water."

The Deputy Commissioner writes—

"If it has been definitely ascertained, as the Civil Surgeon apparently thinks, that in this case *anchylostomiasis* was introduced into the garden by North Western Provinces coolies imported in 1888-89, this points to the necessity for the careful medical examination at all recruiting centres of all labour without distinction. This would perhaps be difficult of practical application, but could, I think, be done. I am however inclined to doubt whether the disease was really introduced in this way and think enquiry might be made as to whether any similar cases are known. It is also clear that we must endeavour to introduce proper latrines on all gardens and compel the coolies to make use of them. I am aware this is difficult, but until this is done we can never ensure the purity of the water supply, and so really control the disease. I shall endeavour to induce one or two managers to try the system, and see whether it can be worked."

LALAMUKH (*inspected on the 24th December 1890*)—

"The manager, Mr. Ross, kindly mustered his labourers for my inspection at Lalamukh. There were present 283 men and 295 women and children, who were about to go to their work on the garden, besides 30 men and women who were attending hospital, 12 of these 30 being in-door patients.

"The 30 men and women attending hospital were all suffering from marked anæmia and dropsy.

"Of the 283 men and 295 women and children, who were about to proceed to their work, 82 of the former and 93 of the latter were suffering from anæmia. These 82 + 93 + (hospital) 30 = 205 out of the 608 present, that is, one-third, or 33 per cent., affected with anæmia.

"In addition to the 30 in or attending hospital, there were approximately 20 of the 175 (82 + 93) anæmic coolies also suffering from dropsy to a greater or less extent. Here then we have 50 (30 + 20) out of a total of 608 present suffering from anæmia and dropsy, *i.e.*, 8 per cent.

"The general physique of the coolies as a body was poor. The majority of the coolies belonged to the class known as "North Westers," being recruited from the North West. There were very few Sonthalis present. The disease was confined entirely to the former class.

"As to the nature of the malady, there can be little doubt that it is *anchylostomiasis* in the majority of cases. In most of the cases the spleen was not enlarged, nor was there a previous history of fever as in malarial cachexia, while not a few of the cases, men, women, and children, were addicted to eating earth, and Dr. Taylor (the medical officer who visits the garden) informs me that in cases where he has used thymol, he has sometimes found the *anchylostomum duodenale* in the dejecta (and sometimes round worms). Were thymol systematically used, and the dejecta carefully scrutinized, it is more than probable that the presence of the *anchylostomum* would be established in all or almost all the cases.

"Dr. Taylor was unfortunately unavoidably absent at my inspection, while the native medical subordinate who was in charge of the garden hospital was absolutely ignorant of the parasite *anchylostomum* and of the use of thymol in expelling this parasite. This ignorance and incompetence are not to be wondered at, as the only training this 'Doctor Babu' has received was that of a 'Compounder' at the Hailákándi charitable dispensary.

"As to the drainage, the coolies' huts are situated on the banks of the Katakhal above flood level with low mud plinths and drained by ditches. I would suggest the raising of these mud plinths and deepening and clearing and keeping clean the ditches draining the coolie lines. Further, *dhán* cultivation should not be allowed too close to the coolie lines, as it is in some cases at present.

"In regard to latrines, there are none. The coolies use the river bank and the adjoining jungles, including the edges of a *bhíl* or *jhíl* at the foot of the tea *tilas* and near their lines for the purposes of nature. This habit I consider most obnoxious, especially in the vicinity of the *bhíl* for the reason stated in the next paragraph. There should be a regular system of latrines for men and for women, established on the trench system, and each trench covered in with earth after daily use. The trenches should be situated above flood level and away from source of drinking water.

"In reference to the water supply, the coolies obtain their water from the Katakhal, and while at work not unfrequently from the *bhíl* above mentioned. There is considerable room for improvement in this direction. The use of the *bhíl* water for drinking purposes should be strictly interdicted, while wells should be sunk on the *tilas*. Mr. Ross showed me two wells which he was having excavated, but they were on the flat, their sides were falling in, and their mouths were flush with the ground. There is no doubt that filtering and boiling the drinking water is highly desirable, but it is more easy to recommmend than to carry into execution for a large body of men like the coolie establishment on a tea garden. If the river water is used as drinking water, and the natives will use it despite orders to the contrary, let the banks at least be kept clean, and don't let the banks be utilised for latrine purposes. Before leaving the subject of water supply, I would recur to the fact that the coolies should on no account be allowed to drink the *bhíl* water, as the ova of the *anchylostoma* no doubt abound in this stagnant water, gaining access thereto from the fæcal matter deposited on its banks.

"About food, wages, &c., it is unnecessary to make any remarks beyond the fact that during the busy season sufficient time is not allowed to the coolies in the middle of the day for cooking their food, the coolies being sent to their tasks at 8 a.m., and not returning to their homes till 4 p.m. I would recommend that the coolies be sent to their work earlier, so as to allow them two hours in the middle of the day to cook their food. The native doctor of the garden I consider incompetent for his post, and would recommend that a passed Hospital Assistant at least be employed in his place ; the sooner the better, so that the disease may be properly treated medically with thymol and tonics. There is an attempt made at present to diet the dropsical patients with milk, but the quantity allowed is insufficient. Each patient should receive from one to one and a half seer per diem. The worst cases of dropsy should be sent in to the Silchar dispensary for regular treatment, or discharged, if such a proceeding is allowable, with an allowance. The anæmic cases should be excused labour in proportion to the severity of the disease.

"In conclusion, I would recommend that no fresh coolies be allowed to go to this garden until the health of the coolies improves, as it is an acknowledged fact that this disease spreads when once introduced into a garden. If fresh coolies are allowed to go to this garden, they should be of a healthy class and kept apart from the affected coolies. Above all, I would strongly urge the immediate introduction of the dry-earth trench system of latrines and a good water supply.

"The manager of this garden should have a copy of Dr. Kinsey's report on 'Anæmia' of Ceylon published by Geo. J. A. Skeen, Government Printing, Colombo, as a book of reference and guidance in the prophylactic and curative treatment of this disease."

In forwarding the Civil Surgeon's report, the Deputy Commissioner wrote—

"The manager has been furnished with a copy of Dr. French's report, and so he knows what reforms he ought to inaugurate. It is remarkable that the death rate among non-Act coolies is very low. Out of an average population, non-Act, of 761 in 1889 and 913 in 1890, the death rate was only 1·54 in 1889 and ·87 in 1890.

"Dr. French does not say whether the coolies he examined were Act or non-Act coolies ; probably they belonged to both classes. He saw however only half the population of the garden ; and if the other half is in the same condition, it is very difficult to understand how the mortality among non-Act coolies can be so low as is shown in the returns. It is only during the last two years that the non-Act coolies appear to have enjoyed so great an immunity from disease and death, while in these

very years the percentage of deaths among Act coolies has increased in an alarming manner. I feel inclined to doubt the accuracy of the figures for non-Act coolies ; 9 per thousand is an inconceivably small death rate.

"The recommendations made by Dr. French as to the introduction of trench latrines, construction of wells, preventing coolies from drinking the water of the neighbouring *bhil* should be enforced, and I will ask the manager what has been done by him in these matters and also with reference to the appointment of a new resident native doctor in place of the incompetent man who had charge when Dr. French made his inspection.

"I think a further medical inspection of this garden ought to be made, care being taken to have all the coolies mustered."

A copy of the Civil Surgeon's remarks on the above garden was sent to the manager, who wrote to the Deputy Commissioner as follows:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 20th instant, and have the honour to inform you that all suggestions in Dr. French's inspection report have been carried out with the exception of the system of trench latrines. This has however my attention, and shall be carried out during the next cold season if at all practicable.

"Good wells have been sunk, made *pucca*, and have been protected from contamination and supplied with pumps at considerable expense, and everything possible is being done to keep the coolies from drinking either river or *bhil* water.

"The resident medical officer is competent and a man of great experience.

"You will please note that I only received a copy of Dr. French's inspection report on the 10th April 1891, on receipt of which I requested Dr. Taylor, the medical officer in charge, to inspect and report on the health of the coolies, water supply, &c., which he did on the 26th of the same month, and I herewith beg to enclose a copy of his report for your perusal and information.

Remarks on Dr. French's Report by David Taylor, Esq., M.D.

"'Inspected the Lalamukh coolies on the 26th April 1891. Found 40 cases of anæmia. As there had only been 8 deaths since Dr. French's inspection (excluding 2 deaths from cholera), 157 of the anæmia cases must have recovered from the deplorable condition they were in on 24th December. Of the 40 cases remaining on the 26th April, 31 might be put down as possible cases of *beri beri*. These 31 cases were all treated by thymol, 20 grains being given twice a day for two days, and these purged by castor oil, in two cases round worms were passed, and in two others what the Doctor Babu calls thread worms were passed. These latter might be the *anchylostomum*. In all the cases the excreta were carefully examined by the Doctor Babu.

"'I do not know whether Dr. French means that a majority of the total 205 anæmia cases or of the 50 anæmia and dropsy cases were afflicted with *beri-beri*. How does it come that the disease has not spread to the jungly coolies, who are described as living in such an uncared for and insanitary state ? Is it not also singular that so many of the anæmia cases should have recovered without the use of any anthelmintic treatment ?

"'With regard to the passage of worms after the use of thymol, six years' experience in Cachar has taught me that a worm of some kind was as natural an inhabitant of the coolie intestine as the tick is of a pariah dog's ear. From experiments I have made with vermifuges on healthy coolies some years ago, I came to the conclusion that nearly 50 per cent. of coolies were troubled with worms.

"'The Doctor Babu on the garden on 24th December was a *budli*. I cordially agree with what Dr. French says regarding the desirability of a regular system of latrines ; but it is impossible to carry it out, as every one who knows the coolie is well aware. As far as I know, no such system is in existence in Cachar.

"'It is not well to criticise too severely an unfinished work. I consider the new wells at Lalamukh are very good and quite free from any chance of contamination by surface water. There are many objections to Dr. French's recommendations of sinking wells on the *tilas* : (1) the great depth required to get water, and (2) the impossibility of getting coolies to go any distance from their homes for water. I do not think the coolies ever use the *bhil* water for drinking ; if the jungly coolies do so, why do not they get *beri-beri* from the use of this water, which abounds with the ova of the *anchylostomum* ? If the banks of the river could be kept clean, a great blow would be struck at cholera, which is endemic on the Katakhal garden. Keeping clean the banks at Lalamukh, however, would not much benefit the Lalamukh coolies, as the water is already contaminated by the sewage from *bastis* and other gardens further up.

"'The native doctor is as competent a man as any garden doctor in Cachar. He has had great experience amongst coolies, and I would prefer him on a garden to any Hospital Assistant. I think the routine treatment of all cases of anæmia by large doses of thymol has been carried too far, and I am quite certain that if Dr. French's recommendations of sending the anæmic coolies to Silchar for treatment be carried into effect, very few of them will ever come back to Lalamukh.' "

AINAKHAL (*inspected on the 26th June 1891*)—

"First half—

Free labourers 2, children 5—
- 3 cholera.
- 2 dysentery.
- 1 pneumonia.
- 1 diarrhœa.

Act coolies 6—
- 5 dysentery (4 *anchylostomiasis*).
- 1 bronchitis.

Second half—

Free labourers 2, children 2—
- 3 dysentery.
- 1 chronic diarrhœa.

Act coolies 28—
- 16 dysentery, mostly *anchylostomiasis*.
- 2 bronchitis.
- 1 apoplexy.
- 1 asthma.
- 2 dropsy. } *anchylostomiasis*.
- 4 *beri-beri*. }
- 2 child-birth.

" As will be seen from the above, I have marginally noted that most of the deaths have occurred from *anchylostomiasis*. I have come to this conclusion after visiting the garden and seeing the coolies. Only four had been so entered in the half-yearly return, but on inspecting the sick I diagnosed and showed to the manager, Mr. Crawford, and his native doctor many already suffering with this disease, and which he (the native doctor) was treating for dysentery, and I have therefore come to the conclusion that most of the so-called dysentery and also the dropsical cases that have died and are entered in the return are or were due to *anchylostomiasis*. I unfortunately did not meet the European medical officer, Dr. Purvis, he having been called out to a distant garden. He has lately arrived, and is possibly not as yet fully informed as to this disease.* I am sending him Dr. Kynsey's pamphlet to read. I have also requested the manager to forward me for analysis three different kinds of the water used by the coolies, *viz.*, (*a*) the Dhaleswari river, (*b*) the Ainakhal stream, and (*c*) the tank. I will, on receipt of the bottles and after analysis, report as to their fitness for drinking.

" Amongst the old coolies, who live apart from the other coolies and whose huts are on the banks of the Dhaleswari river, no cases of this disease have occurred, and they are wonderfully healthy and free of diseases of all kinds. Those in the synopsis of disease and entered as due to dysentery are children of the Act coolies, and probably suffered from *anchylostomiasis*.

" After the analysis of the water, it will be, if my surmise is correct and that *anchylostomiasis* is greatly due to this cause, a point to be considered as to the removal of the Act coolies' lines, or most of them, to another site, but the water supply is, and will be, a difficulty. The tank is kept very clean and well protected, and only used for drinking ; and if this is infected, it and the Ainakhal stream must be abandoned.

" Nothing as to the removal of lines can however be effected before next cold weather.

" I wish to point out that it is only amongst newly-imported coolies that this disease is prevalent, and it has not affected the old coolies, who live apart and separate from them.

" I have nothing further to add as to the food-supply or the hours for cooking, both of which are ample.

" I have instructed the native doctor as to what to do in treating coolies affected with *anchylostomiasis*, and requested the manager to give a small ration of rum to those affected. I have found that feeding alone is not sufficient ; they require stimulants.

" All the sick are dieted and receive good and properly-cooked food under supervision of the native doctor."

NAGADUM (*inspected on the 8th May 1891*)—

" First half—
- Non-Act coolies, adults 4—
  - 1 pneumonia.
  - 1 dysentery.*
  - 1 cholera.
  - 1 dropsy.*
- Children 6—
  - 2 fever.
  - 2 convulsions.
  - 2 dysentery.
- Act coolies 12—
  - 7 cholera.
  - 4 dysentery*
  - 1 dropsy.*

Second half—
- Non-Act, adults 1—
  - 1 dysentery.
- Children 6—
  - 3 fever.
  - 1 convulsion.
  - 1 dropsy.*
  - 1 dysentery.
- Act coolies 6—
  - 1 debility of old age.
  - 1 child-birth.
  - 3 dysentery and diarrhœa.
  - 1 inflammation of bowels from earth eating.

* All from *anchylostomiasis*.

" Amongst the deaths in adults, 11 are from unpreventible causes, *viz.*, 8 cholera, which was in the neighbouring *bastis* ; and until an unfortunate coolie against orders went into the *basti*, caught the disease, and brought it back with him and died, the garden had been completely free of it ; also the senile debility case (an old woman of over 60) and the case of death in child-bed and the death from inflammation of the bowels from earth-eating, who had been known to have eaten an immense quantity of earth which accumulated in her bowels and produced inflammation.

" There have been several cases of this nature (earth-eating), but none except the above have proved fatal. It is a morbid appetite principally affecting women, and also, I am convinced, due to a craving for salt, and probably has something to do with *anchylostomiasis*. I made particular enquiries about the supply of salt, and it is easily procurable in the neighbouring *hâts* at a fair, and not at an excessive rate. Five of the other deaths are due to *anchylostomiasis*, which is still in this garden. Inspected the sick, some 16 or 17, with Dr. Cowan, and we picked out 5 or 6 with the disease well marked in them. They were under, and had been for some time, the proper treatment of thymol, &c.

" I also impressed on the manager, Mr. Horne, but who had only been on the garden a few days, and also the proprietor, Mr. Macdonald, the necessity of watching closely the advent of this disease and the necessity of feeding the debilitated coolies with nourishing food, and also administering stimulants in other cases, which I am more and more convinced is of primary importance in this disease.

" This disease is undoubtedly spreading in Cachar. Cases have been met with in the *bastis* adjoining this garden and in other parts of the district.

" The water supply is mainly from wells properly protected and covered in. Two new ones have been made.

" There is an ample supply of food stuff procurable in the neighbouring *hâts*.

" The site of the lines and the garden generally has been so often described that I have not thought it necessary to do so again."

As regards this garden the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"This garden has been on the black list since 1886. In 1888 a committee under sections 128 and 129 was held on this garden, and at the recommendation of the committee the importation of North Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar coolies was stopped, and some other sanitary improvements were made, notwithstanding which the garden continues to be unhealthy. * * * * * * * * * Of the 35 deaths which occurred in 1890, 8, or more than one-fifth of the deaths were alone from cholera. If cholera deaths be omitted as an exceptional cause, the death rate comes to 85·7 per mille. Comparing however the figures for 1889 with those of 1890, it appears the death rate among Act and non-Act labourers altogether fell from 129·7 to 104·3, and that among Act labourers only from 140·3 to 120·9, which shows a slight improvement."

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

42. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Sylhet and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
South Sylhet ..	Lakhaicherra	217	269	14	10	24	64·5	37·1	101·6
	Sindur Khan	293	271	18	12	30	61·4	44·2	105·6
	Fuskuri	293	275	12	8	20	41·0	29·0	70·0
	Rajghat	529	501	16	27	43	30·2	53·8	84·0
	Kajuricherra	595	508	27	43	70	45·3	84·6	129·9
	Barmacherra	293	286	11	12	23	37·5	41·9	79·4
Karimganj ..	Gandicherra	247	247	8	12	20	32·3	48·5	80·8
	Sonarupa	162	158	13	3	16	80·2	18·9	99·1
	Total	2,629	2,515	119	127	246	45·2	50·4	95·6

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
South Sylhet ..	Lakhaicherra	3	6	.....	1	.....	14	24
	Sindur Khan	4	4	.....	9	.....	13	30
	Fuskuri	1	3	2	1	2	11	20
	Rajghat	7	5	.....	1	5	25	43
	Kajuricherra	10	6	4	21	.....	29	70
	Barmacherra	4	5	1	6	.....	7	23
Karimganj	Gandicherra	8	2	1	.....	.....	9	20
	Sonarupa	.....	8	2	1	3	2	16
	Total	37	39	10	40	10	110	246

Unhealthy on non-Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Karimganj.	Tarvincherra	396	437	6	26	32	15·1	59·4	74·5
	Sonakhira	224	232	6	11	17	26·7	47·4	74·1
	Total	620	669	12	37	49	19·3	55·3	74·6

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Karimganj	Tarvincherra	..	9	7	1	2	13	32
	Sonakhira	..	8	1	2	..	6	17
	Total	..	17	8	3	2	19	49

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
North Sylhet ..	Lubacherra	627	619	6	48	54	9·5	77·5	87·0

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
North Sylhet	Lubacherra	48	1	.....	.....	1	4	54

As regards the unhealthy gardens generally, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"The following gardens were in the list in 1890 only, and not in 1889:

Sonarupa, | Lahkaicherra,

"whilst the remaining six were in the lists for both years, *viz.*,—

Rajghat ... ... } Unhealthy over the total population in 1889.
Kajuricherra ... }

Sindur Khan ... }
Fuskuri ... } Unhealthy only as regards Act-I coolies in 1889."
Gandicherra ... }
Barmacherra ... }

With the exception of Sonarupa and Lubacherra, all the unhealthy gardens have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his reports:

LAKHAICHERRA (*inspected on the 30th March 1891*)—

"Of the Act coolies for the year 1890, five deaths are from diseases affecting aged people, *viz.*, from 55 to 65 and 70 years of age; many are due to the after effects of the influenza epidemic, as many as 150 of the coolies were ill at one time in hospital, whilst nearly the whole of the labour force were affected. Most of the deaths returned as 'pneumonia' were originally due to the above epidemic in the first place. Of the free labourers, the same epidemic affected them, both adults and children, and helped to swell the death rate. There were no cases of *anchylostomiasis* amongst those who died, or in the patients I saw at the hospital."

This garden was again inspected by the subdivisional officer on the 19th June 1891, with the result that the death rate for the period since the date of last inspection, 9th July 1890, was found to have fallen to 5·8 and 3·5 per cent. respectively amongst Act and non-Act coolies:

SINDUR KHAN (*date of inspection not given*)—

"This garden was visited by a committee in December 1890, and a full report was submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, to which I beg to refer. I visited the garden, and made particular enquiries about the health of the remaining coolies, which up to the date of my visit was especially good; very few on the sick list, and those not of very great importance. I may mention that one of the suggestions made by the committee to remove the balance of the coolies, principally Ganjam coolies, to another garden, and of whom all were suffering from *anchylostomiasis*, has proved highly beneficial to their general health; but at the same time this disease was not brought on by the garden, but was contracted by the coolies in their own country and then developed on arrival. The wells have been attended to, and new ones made. Lines and houses in first rate order, and drainage improved, as suggested in the report of the committee. A latrine was made, but it is difficult to make the coolies use it.

"'*Proceedings of a Committee held on 9th December 1890 on the Sindur Khan tea garden.*

"'Mr. J. Kennedy, Deputy Commissioner ... President.
"'Dr. T. d'OPartridge, Civil Surgeon, } Members.
"'Mr. Thompson, of Satgaon tea garden, }
"'Dr. Duncan, Medical Officer of the garden, was also present.

"'The committee first inspected the lines. They are on higher ground than the adjoining tea, are spacious, clear of jungle, and well drained. Some of the buildings have however very low mud plinths, but the manager stated they were to be pulled down and rebuilt this cold weather, when the plinths would be raised.

"'The water in the wells, six of which are *pucca*, was good and fit for use, two of the wells producing water which looked as clear as if it had been filtered.

"'The committee found the deaths were not in any particular lines or months or among any special class of coolies, though the coolies from Ganjam are perhaps the worst, but they all appeared to be among coolies imported within the last year or two. Thus, as to the four diseases, debility, dropsy, dysentery, and cholera, of which at least the first three especially indicate a weak state of health, the books show that of the deaths reported by Mr. Herald in his inspection report of 4th July 1890, the oldest coolie on the garden arrived in January 1889.

"'The committee went thoroughly through the books of the garden, but could find no further hint as to the cause of the mortality. All the Act coolies were mustered and examined by the committee, the manager for easy inspection having placed by themselves the most sickly. The committee found twenty men and forty-six women suffering from anæmia or *anchylostomiasis* among the Act coolies, and considered that they all should be removed to healthy gardens in the same interests along with their families to give them a proper chance. None of them were however hopeless, and it was not considered necessary to cancel any of the contracts. Ten non-Act men and fifteen non-Act women were also found suffering in a similar manner, and they also had better be transferred.

"'The committee considers that for the next year or two the manager should exercise great caution as to the class of coolies he admits to the garden. As to the very low average pay of coolies commented on by Mr. Herald in his inspection report of 4th July 1890, the committee would note that the low rate of pay was only in January 1890, not in the other month, September 1889, reported on, and it appears to have been owing to a mistake of the manager in his book-keeping that the pay was shown as so low, he having omitted to enter in his attendance register, from which the figures were taken, a considerable sum paid at contract rates to the coolies in January for house building. The committee was satisfied that the rate of pay did not require revision. The coolies entered in the annexed lists (not printed) clearly would not be affected by any practicable alterations in the rates of pay.

"'In conclusion then the committee has only two recommendations to make: first that the coolies in the annexed four lists (not printed) should be transferred to other healthy gardens in the same interests, and secondly that great care be taken for the next year or two in admitting coolies to this garden. The sardars should be made to alter the class of coolies to which they go for recruitment.'"

This garden was again inspected (on the 19th June 1891) by the subdivisional officer, who wrote:

"There was a committee on this garden on 9th December 1890. The committee had no fault to find with the lines, water supply, &c., but found that a number of coolies, of whom a list was made, should be transferred to a healthy garden of the same company. The committee also alluded to the rates of pay, but there is no cause for remark now on that point, except that the wages are very good.

The coolies to be transferred were:

Act-I ...	Men	20
	Women	46
Non-Act ...	Men	10
	Women	15

"These were not all transferred as recommended. The manager found that many of them were recovering, while on the other hand there appeared to be others worse. He therefore transferred a total of 77 people, including some, but not all, of those specially alluded to by the committee. Of those pointed out by the committee, two have since died.

"There is no doubt (as the committee ascertained) there is little that is unhealthy about the garden itself. The deaths occur amongst the newly-imported and weakly coolies. The death rate of Act coolies is still high, 6·5 per cent., but it is satisfactory to note that the deaths are generally less in the half year since the committee was held. Moreover, the average number of Act coolies is really larger than it seems, for 77 were transferred last March. If these were added, the death-rate is about 5 per cent."

The Deputy Commissioner in forwarding the above report writes:

"The recommendations of the committee held on this garden have been carried out with very satisfactory results. The rise in average wages is especially notable. The garden is naturally feverish, and I am afraid that it will not escape the black list this year, but the death rate is steadily diminishing."

FUSKURI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"*Free labourers.*—Total number of deaths for the past year 1890 has been of adults 6, of which 2 were cholera and in aged people 55 to 70; children 4, 1 still born.

"Of the Act coolies, 20 have died, of whom 4 were Ganjam coolies, who arrived in a very weakly state of health in 1889 and never rallied.

"There were four deaths from *anchylostomiasis* amongst Ganjam coolies; they have been entered in the returns as from Madras by mistake of the manager.

"There were several deaths from chronic dysentery, and possibly also due to *anchylostomiasis*, but Dr. Duncan, the medical officer of the company, was doubtful of this, and there was one case of cholera."

This garden was again inspected by the subdivisional officer on the 19th June 1891, with the result that the death rate for the eleven months since the date of last inspection (7th July 1890) was found to have fallen to 4·8 and 1·09 per cent. amongst Act and non-Act coolies respectively:

"RAJGHAT (*date of inspection not given*)—

"*Free labourers.*—10 from pneumonia, due from the coolies having suffered from influenza in the first place, which rendered them susceptible to cold; and, the season after June being exceptionally damp and cold, they readily took cold, and rapidly developed inflammation of the lungs, which proved fatal. Children 4 only.

"*Act coolies.*—Of the total number of deaths (43), 28 have been from *anchylostomiasis*, and mostly amongst the Ganjam imported labourers imported during 1889 and 1890 principally ; 7 from cholera. The remainder mostly pneumonia from the cold wet season after influenza.

"I saw at the hospital a large number of the coolies in various stages of the disease (*anchylostomiasis*). The native doctor, a most intelligent man from the North Western Provinces, has taken much pains in working out this disease, and is one of the few native doctors I have met with who evidently knows and recognises the disease and treats it at once and correctly.

"I saw details of upwards of 277 cases, and most of them were shown me at the hospital, where they had been paraded for inspection. They showed marked signs of the disease, and were in various stages of it, but on the whole most were improving. Those 277 cases had been recognised and placed under treatment principally from the 22nd January to the 23rd March of this year. Up to the date of my inspection (April) only two deaths had occurred, and the others were improving. It is scarcely possible but that other deaths should occur ; but I do not think that many will, as they were being treated skilfully and correctly ; and the after-treatment, *viz.*, good diet, stimulants—the latter an important factor I find in this disease—and tonics, was being carried out.

"The coolies who died in 1890 were principally from Ganjam, and a very sorry lot of weakly beings with *anchylostomiasis* already in them. They have been entered in the returns as from Madras, but this is a mistake, and they should have been entered as from Ganjam."

This garden was again inspected (on the 16th June 1891) by the subdivisional officer, who wrote—

"This is a garden that was inspected by the Civil Surgeon on account of its high mortality, which was found to be principally due to *anchylostomiasis*. The native doctor (who is an intelligent man, of whom the Civil Surgeon spoke highly) produced before the Civil Surgeon 277 cases of this *anchylostomiasis* all under treatment. That was in April. By the direction of the Deputy Commissioner all these coolies were paraded before me at my inspection (as well as the rest of the labour force). There have been no deaths among these 277, on the contrary, they are all improving, which is satisfactory. There seems reason to hope that the doctor will succeed in greatly reducing the death rate, which however is still high. It is not high among the non-Act population, and therefore I do not consider that there is anything specially unhealthy about the garden itself. (The Civil Surgeon does not find fault with the various arrangements). The deaths occur chiefly among the weakly coolies imported, especially those from Ganjam. I think the manager in sending sardárs to recruit should avail himself of the provisions of section 70 of the Act, so as to insure that coolies suffering from anæmia should not be brought to the garden."

The Deputy Commissioner in forwarding the above report remarks that the native doctor in charge of the garden will be asked to describe his treatment in detail with a view to have it adopted in other gardens suffering from *anchylostomiasis*.

KAJURICHERRA (*date of inspection not given*)—

"Of the free labourers.—Number of deaths for the year—of adults 17, 3 were aged coolies 50 to 70 years of age, 3 cholera, 3 probably *anchylostomiasis* entered as debility, 2 heat apoplexy, 2 phthisis, 2 pneumonia, 1 puerperal, 1 fever ; children 12, 2 cholera, several bronchial affections aggravated by influenza, which disease was very prevalent amongst the coolies.

"*Act coolies.*—Total 70. Of these upwards of 22 were old debilitated coolies of 55 to 65 and 70 years of age. Why these coolies should have been placed under contract at all is a mystery. Ten of cholera, 32 were from *anchylostomiasis* and arrived in this state. Most of them belonged to a very bad batch of 36 Ganjam coolies that were sent up to the garden. So bad were they and some of the other coolies that 40 of the worst cases were transferred to another garden of the company (Jagcherra), to see whether separating them and dividing them would do any good ; and by last accounts received of them the change has been of benefit to them. 45 of the deaths belonged to batches of most indifferent and weakly coolies sent up during 1889.

"The sick list is small, and there have been but few deaths since 1st January 1891 for this year."

This garden was again inspected on the 16th June 1891 by the subdivisional officer, who wrote—

"The death rate of Act coolies is very high (13·2 per cent.) Of the total deaths (77 Act and non-Act), 42 were from dropsy and debility, which I am told are really anæmia. The Doctor Babu says he is often successful in treating and curing cases of anæmia, but it would not appear so. Last March over 40 adult coolies were transferred to another garden of the Company, Jagcherra, which is said to be healthy for sickly coolies. This seems to have had a good result. Thus deaths of Act coolies in—

October	1890	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
November	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
December	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
January	1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
February	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
March	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
April	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
May	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

"The garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon prior to the last inspection. He recommended chiefly that the plinths of the houses be raised, which has been done, but not to the extent recommended. The manager is fitting up a large filtering apparatus, which should give good water if the coolies will only drink it.

"Everything seems to depend on the prevention and cure of anæmia. I think there should be a more careful selection of coolies before importation. The garden itself is not so unhealthy as is seen from the low death rate of the non-Act population, *viz.*, 1·5 per cent."

The Deputy Commissioner observes—

"This garden was in a very unsatisfactory state during the last year, 1890. It remains to be seen if there has been any improvement this year. I shall await receipt of half year's statistics. If this does not show improvement, I shall recommend a committee being held to select coolies for transfer to other gardens of the Company."

BARMACHERRA (*date of inspection not given*)—

"*Free labourers.*—Adult deaths for last year 7—3 pneumonia, 2 *anchylostomiasis* from Ganjam, 1 cholera, 1 brain disease ; children, 3 cholera, 1 pneumonia.

"*Act coolies.*—23 deaths : 7 *anchylostomiasis*, 4 cholera. Almost all of them were imported in 1889 ; 10 of them from Ganjam and most indifferent and weakly coolies. The other deaths were from pneumonia, puerperal fever, phthisis, &c. During this year (1891) 8 deaths have occurred among these same coolies, 4 of whom have died of *anchylostomiasis*.

This garden was again inspected on the 16th June 1891 by the subdivisional officer, who wrote—

"Death rate among Act coolies is high. I attribute the cause here, as at Kajuricherra, to the poor class of the coolies imported. I can see nothing particularly unhealthy about the garden, lines, &c. Coolies that came to the garden healthy would, I believe, retain their health. The water-supply is not very good, but is not worse than most other gardens. Of the 22 deaths among Act coolies, 11 were of coolies from Ganjam.

"On the other hand, the non-Act labourers, children, &c., are healthy, and have only a death rate of 1·9 per cent."

The Deputy Commissioner observes—

"This garden has always been unhealthy for non-Act coolies. It shows signs of some improvement this year. The treatment of anæmic coolies will be adopted as at the next garden, Rajghat, in future.

GANDICHERRA (*date of inspection not given*)—

"*Free labourers.*—Adults 3—2 dysentery and 1 dropsy. Children 2, chronic diarrhœa.

"*Act coolies.*—Twenty deaths, principally amongst North Western Provinces coolies imported in 1888-89. They were on arrival found to be weakly, and suffering many of them from chronic dysentery and diarrhœa. It is doubtful whether some of them were not suffering with and from *anchylostomiasis*, but no worms were discovered, although the appropriate treatment (thymol) was tried.

"The manager here has introduced the so-called hotel system, and all sickly and weakly coolies are regularly fed, and their food properly cooked and given to them twice a day, instead of allowing each coolie the usual sick diet pay. It is found that the above system works most excellently, and the health of the coolies has greatly improved. By giving them pay it was soon discovered that, as is usual with North Western Provinces coolies, they starved themselves to save a few pice."

This garden was again inspected (on the 20th June 1891) by the subdivisional officer, who writes :—

"Death rate of Act coolies still high (6·4), but much less than last year."

With reference to Lakhaicherra, Sindur Khan, Fuskuri, Rajghat, Kajuricherra, Barmacherra, and Gandicherra gardens generally the Civil Surgeon remarks :

"I would point out that *anchylostomiasis* has been greatly responsible for the high death-rate, supplemented by most indifferent coolies imported from both Ganjam and the North Western Provinces. The agents, or whoever is responsible for the recruiting of such coolies, are mainly to blame, and should be taken to task for such gross neglect. Influenza had also much to do with the death rate. It was very prevalent last year in nearly all the gardens of the company, and although it did not at the time cause death, yet it so weakened those attacked that they readily fell victims to any cause, such as a chill which produced pneumonia and other allied diseases, and proved very fatal.

"This Company's gardens have so frequently been inspected, and show by the inspection reports the great care and attention paid to the well-being of their coolies, that I have not thought it necessary to enter fully into an account of the lines, water, or food supply. They are as near perfection as they can be. All the lines are well situated, equally well drained, and the houses large, roomy, and airy ; in fact, model coolie lines. The utmost care is taken to give the coolies good drinking water, and the bázárs are well supplied with everything. Drainage also is well and carefully attended to."

TARVINCHERRA (*inspected on the 23rd February 1891*)—

"This garden has been again unhealthy, the lines have also been moved again to another site adjoining the other garden of the same company (Anipur tea estate).

"I do not place much of the mortality to the site of the lines, but mainly to the class of coolies imported. I saw most of them in their lines. They (the coolies) were entirely from the North Western Provinces, horribly dirty in their persons and clothing ; their clothes appeared never to have been washed since they first put them on, black with filth and greasy to a degree. Undoubtedly many of the deaths were due to *anchylostomiasis*, which they had brought up with them.

"There are no Act coolies in this garden, all free labourers.

"The deaths for the first half year of 1890—Adults 4—1 dysentery, 1 hemoptysis, 2 fever ; children 1 fever, 1 ulcer.

"Second half.—Adults 17—4 dysentery, 5 diarrhœa, 1 cough, 2 fever, 1 abscess, 3 anæmia, and 1 dropsy ; children 9—4 dysentery, 2 diarrhœa, and 3 fever. The present state of the lines is on high ground and very open, more or less surrounded by cultivation, tea and *dhán*. They are amply drained and the houses well built in every respect. Numerous wells, which are protected from drainage, are supplied for drinking purposes, and the coolies are prohibited from using any other water as far as

it is possible. They have lots of cows belonging to themselves, and ample means of procuring food of all kinds at the *hát* held weekly, which is also well supplied with vegetables according to season.

"But here, as with North Western Provinces coolies, they will persist in trying to save every pice they make, and will not, in spite of precept and remonstrance, take a sufficiency of proper and nourishing food; consequently if they become ill and get into a weakly state, they succumb to the disease, whatever it may be, and die.

"There is a properly qualified native doctor, and Dr. Allen superintends.

"I also beg to state that 5 of the deaths were in aged people of over 50 to 75. Two of them aged respectively 65 to 75; also a death from cancer."

SONAKHIRA *(inspected on the 21st February 1891)*—

"*First half.*—*Free labourers.*—Adults 3—2 dysentery and 1 old age; children 3—2 diarrhœa, 1 throat disease.

"*Second half.*—Adults, 2 dropsy, 4 dysentery, 1 epilepsy, 1 debility, 1 ascites; children 2—1 fever, 1 diarrhœa.

"There are no Act coolies here.

"Most of these diseases are due to newly-imported coolies who arrived from the North Western Provinces suffering with and from *anchylostomiasis.*

"I saw the labour force, as it was pay day, and pointed out to the manager one or two cases, and he then said the coolies who died mostly were like the ones I showed him.

"The lines are well situated on high *tilas*, well drained both artificially and naturally; houses well built and of good materials; the water also good from wells, and there is an ample supply of them. Coolies are prohibited from drinking from other sources as far as possible.

"There is a bázár near the garden, and amply supplied with vegetables according to season.

"There is a native doctor in charge, but there are a number of gardens round about here, and I think it would pay the gardens to entertain a European medical man. At present Dr. Allen from Chargola attends on urgent cases, but I should imagine an arrangement could be made for him to visit at certain stated intervals.

"There were no sick on the day of inspection except one or two I pointed out as suffering from *anchylostomiasis.*

"No deaths had occurred up to the date of inspection for this year, 1891."

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

43. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on non-Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Gauháti	Rani	68	63	8	5	13	117·6	79·3	196·9
	Ramsha Hill	68	110	13	13	26	191·1	118·1	309·2
	Total	136	173	21	18	39	154·4	104·0	258·4

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Gauhati	Rani	..	..	13	..	..	..	13
	Ramsha Hill	..	..	26	..	..	..	26
	Total	..	..	39	..	..	..	39

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Kámrúp	Chunsali	441	394	43	37	80	97·5	93·9	191·4
	Bordwar	322	317	13	11	24	40·3	34·7	75·0
	Luri	244	201	15	10	25	61·4	49·7	111·1
	Chandrapur	246	305	14	22	36	56·9	72·1	129·0
Gáuháti	Mandakata	217	198	5	14	19	23·0	70·7	93·7
	Sonapur	471	456	14	31	45	29·7	67·9	97·6
	Total	1,941	1,871	104	126	229	53·5	66·8	120·3

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Kámrúp	Chunsali	5	2	64	....	1	8	80
	Bordwar	....	....	13	1	....	10	24
	Luri	....	8	3	2	....	12	25
Gauháti	Chandrapur	9	7	4	....	2	14	36
	Mandakata	10	....	6	....	....	3	19
	Sonapur	1	11	11	....	1	21	45
	Total	25	28	101	3	4	68	229

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act population only.

Only two unhealthy gardens, Chunsali and Bordwar, have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his reports:

CHUNSALI *(inspected on the 5th February 1891)*—

The Civil Surgeon reports that *kála-azár* accounts for 58 deaths, and that a number of the coolies are still suffering from this disease. He remarks as follows:

"The only way to prevent the spreading of *kála-azár* is to aim at good conservancy and good water. As the lines are on high ground, it is only necessary to see that no place near the lines is used as a latrine, and that the coolies go some distance from their houses and away from their water supply, so that it cannot become contaminated when they relieve nature. Water supply is the most important matter to be attended to. All the wells are situated in such a place that the surface drainage from the lines contaminates the water. They are uncovered, and have no pumps, so that the wind can carry dust, &c., into them, and the coolies in drawing water are apt to pollute them. New wells in proper sites, made *pucca* for some way down, should be built, so that no surface drainage can pollute them. They should be covered over, and have pumps attached to them. A reservoir should be attached with taps to enable the coolies to get water readily, and a coolie should be kept to pump water morning and evening into the reservoirs."

The Deputy Commissioner writes:

"A copy of the above remarks was sent to the manager. He informs me that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations are being carried out, new wells being in course of construction, wire lining for same and pumps having been ordered from Calcutta."

BORDWAR *(inspected on the 9th June 1891)*—

"*Kála-azár* is very prevalent here. In gardens in Upper Assam this would be called anæmia in most cases. It is in 75 per cent. of cases purely *anchylostoma* or *dochmius duodenalis*. The wells are open, unprotected, and in one case in the middle of the lines it is certain to suffer from contamination, as the surface drainage must run into it. The manager informs me this will be stopped, and Norton tubes used. This has already been done in one set of lines.

"The improvements necessary are—

"(1) Water-supply, *i.e.*, close the contaminated wells, and use Norton tubes or other pump arrangements.

"(2) New houses to be improved.

"(3) Jungle near lines to be cleared.

"Otherwise the coolies are well cared for, and garden arrangements good."

The Civil Surgeon should be directed to inspect without delay the other unhealthy gardens, and his reports should be submitted to the Commissioner for the issue of such orders as may be necessary. There can be no doubt that the unhealthiness of the gardens is largely due to the prevalence of *kála-azár*, and the Chief Commissioner is separately considering what steps can be taken to arrest the progress of this disease.

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

44. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Darrang, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred on them:

Unhealthy on Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Tezpur	Barjuli	1,090	1,178	35	51	86	32·1	43·2	75·3
	Dolupadong	364	378	10	17	27	27·4	44·9	72·3
	Sonajuli	414	517	11	38	49	26·5	73·6	100·1
	Sadharughop	197	213	3	12	15	15·2	56·3	71·5
Mangaldai	Panbari	147	166	2	10	12	13·6	60·2	73·8
	Bhergaon	108	94	5	7	12	46·3	74·4	120·7
	Total	2,320	2,546	66	135	201	28·4	53·0	81·4

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Tezpur	Barjuli	....	15	21	12	18	20	86
	Dolupadong	4	8	4	3	1	7	27
	Sonajuli	4	15	3	5	7	15	49
	Sadharughop	1	3	1	1	3	6	15
Mangaldai	Paubari	....	3	1	3	....	5	12
	Bhergaon	2	2	3	4	....	1	12
	Total	11	46	33	28	29	54	201

Unhealthy on non-Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Tezpur	Tarajuli	130	139	5	12	17	38·4	86·3	124·7

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Tezpur	Tarajuli..	..	1	2	2	2	10	17

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Tezpur	Gellahating	471	467	15	25	40	31·8	53·5	85·3
	Ghogra	145	143	4	9	13	27·5	62·9	90·4
	Total ..	616	610	19	34	53	30·8	55·7	86·5

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Tezpur	Gellahating	7	9	5	2	7	10	40
	Ghogra	..	3	2	..	..	8	13
		7	12	7	2	7	18	53

As regards the unhealthy gardens generally, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"Of the above gardens, Gellahating has been on the unhealthy list continually since 1887, Dolupadong appeared in 1886 and 1887, Sadharughop in 1888, and Bhergaon in 1889. Ghogra is a small outlying garden far from bázárs and situated close to the foot of the Dafla hills. It has been abandoned since the close of the year. I visited it shortly before it was closed. I fancy its unhealthiness was chiefly due to the fact that it did not pay, and that it was economically managed."

All the unhealthy gardens have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his reports :

BARJULI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"The high death rate was due to anæmia, dysentery, and fever. Out of 86 deaths, 30 of the Ganjam and Telegu castes died within a few months of their arrival in the garden. This lot was of inferior physique. Again, during this month (March) 13 died from cholera, which is brought in by the newly-imported coolies. The manager is trying his best to stop the epidemic by segregation.

The lines and water supply require no comment. The Manager proposes to build a *pucca* hospital next year. At present the sick are looked after in their lines. Has got a good experienced doctor Babu, and Dr. Price lives in the garden. Mr. Moore takes great interest in the welfare of his coolies. Coolies mustered and inspected. Children are well looked after."

With reference to the above remarks the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"I see no reason to differ from Dr. Borah's view of the mortality on this garden, but it is disappointing to find that the Ganjam coolies, who form a daily increasing proportion of the importation of the district, are standing the climate so badly. If this goes on, it will be necessary to stop importation from Ganjam—a serious matter for the tea industry, already hard pressed to obtain an adequate labour supply."

DOLUPADONG (*date of inspection not given*)—

"The death rate in—	Act.	Non-Act.
1888	11·96	0·63
1889	4·56	3·08
1890	7·23	1·97

"The deaths in 1890 are cholera 4, dysentery 8, fever 4, dropsy 3, anæmia 1, other causes 7 among the Act, and dysentery 3, fever 2, anæmia 2, other diseases 2, among non-Act coolies.

"2. Recommended for two *pucca* wells with pump and cistern in the lines.

"3. A new hospital with cemented floor is also recommended.

"4. Coolies mustered, and found 40·71 per cent. suffering from anæmia, *i.e.*, *beri-beri*.

"5. Foodgrains from the garden shop examined and found of good quality, rates 10 to 13 seers of rice per rupee according to quality.

"6. Classification of anæmia of coolies explained."

The Deputy Commissioner writes—

"It is astonishing to find so large a percentage as 40 per cent. of the coolies suffering from *beri-beri*. Dr. Borah does not say whether the thymol treatment has been tried. He will be asked to supply this information. The garden is situated in an open and healthy-looking part of the district."

SONAJULI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"Cholera and bowel-complaints are the chief causes of mortality.

"The coolies mustered and found 37·6 per cent. of anæmia among them.

"Children are generally looked after, and the manager, Mr. Thompson, takes great interest for the welfare of his coolies.

"Sanitary state of the garden is good."

SADHARUGHOP (*date of inspection not given*)—

"The deaths in 1890 were—

	Act.	Non-Act.
Cholera	1	1
Dysentery	3	4
Fever	1	1
Dropsy and debility	1	1
Anæmia	3	1
Other causes	6	1
Total	15	9

"In the 'other causes' there were four deaths from epilepsy, fracture of the skull by fall, burn, and puerperal fever; if they were excluded, the death rate will be 4·85. The deaths, though unavoidable, increased the mortality over 7 per cent. The lines are greatly improved since my last inspection, and Mr. Steele, the manager, has drawn up some sanitary rules in order to keep the lines neat and clean by the agency of chaukidárs, and a few men kept for the purpose to clear away rubbish, &c. Children are looked after, especially the sick ones. Coolies mustered, and found 50 per cent. of *anchylostomiasis*."

The Deputy Commissioner writes as follows:

"This also is a garden in which *anchylostomiasis* prevails. The garden is situated in the open Bisnath plain, and there is not much jungle in its vicinity. Women's wages are not very high, but the general average is not bad. The garden will be carefully watched, and if health does not improve, I will call a committee."

PANBARI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"Although this garden is on the black list, the percentage of mortality, 7·38 in 1890, is nothing out of the ordinary fluctuation of death rate. Four cases of pneumonia due to (not from the insanitary condition) the climatic changes, and one woman died from puerperal fever, which necessarily brought the death ratio over 7 per cent. Lines and water supply are good. No marked sanitary defects are noticed. Coolies paraded, and found them generally healthy. The children are well looked after. No further comments needed."

The Deputy Commissioner writes—

"The garden, like most Mangaldai gardens, is a small one, and percentages are necessarily misleading in such cases."

BHERGAON (*date of inspection not given*)—

"In 1890 deaths were 2 from cholera, 2 dysentery, 3 influenza, 2 dropsy, diarrhœa 2, and debility 1, total 12 among Act, and 7 deaths non-Act coolies.

"The high death rate was due to cholera and influenza, and if 5 deaths were deducted the percentage would be 5·88. This death rate was unavoidable. Besides, there were several deaths among the newly-imported Ganjam Telegu coolies, who were of indifferent health, and were evidently not suited to this climate. The sanitary arrangements are good. The coolies mustered and inspected. Lieutenant Howell inspected this garden on the 6th of this month. No death nor sick since. Children are looking healthy. There is a shop in the garden. Foodgrains found of good quality, and sold at 20 seers per rupee."

TARAJULI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"The high death rate was due to cholera. It appeared in Act and non-Act coolies with 11 deaths. It has not yet entirely stopped. The manager is taking every precaution to prevent further occurrence. The present man is not even a qualified compounder. A duly qualified man ought to be entertained.

"Coolies mustered, and found 27·5 per cent. of anæmia cases among them.

"Children are, as a rule, a healthy lot. No shops in the garden. Coolies buy eatables in the markets.

"The registers are not kept as prescribed in Rule 138."

Proceedings of a committee of inspection under section 128, Act I of 1882, held on the Gellahating garden on 15th December 1889.

Present:

R. B. McCabe, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Darrang.
Surgeon-Major Borah, Civil Surgeon.
A. Showers, Esq., Manager of the Bishnath Tea Company.

"This garden, which is most carefully managed, has for some time past had a very high death rate amongst its coolies.

"The coolies were all mustered:

Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
153	126	86	70	435

of these 138 were suffering from anæmia and 25 from Nága ulcers.

"These coolies were almost entirely sent up by contractors and are a very inferior *jat*.

"The lines are well situated on high ground with good drainage. The houses are substantially built on well raised plinths and are in good repair.

"The Civil Surgeon reported the water supply to be excellent. Near the lines the committee noted a piece of low marshy land covered with jungle and recommend that this swamp be cleared, and planted with rice.

"The manager promised to put this work in hand at once."

GELLAHATING (*date of inspection not given*)—

"This garden is again in the black list. A committee was held under section 128, Act I of 1882, on the 15th December 1889. The swamp referred to by the committee is kept free from jungle, but not yet drained and converted into rice field for want of sufficient labour, so the manager stated in his letter dated the 22nd July 1890, to the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Surgeon General, Dr. Costello, who also inspected with me, recommended Australian gum tree plantation, which the manager is going to do this year. The lines are well situated on high ground with good drainage. The coolies bathe in the Dikrai stream. The drinking water is obtained from the *pucca* well, which is fitted with pump, cistern, and taps. Water good, and no chance of contamination. No conservancy. The hospital, the floor of which is cemented, is well provided with medicines and appliances. A qualified compounder is in immediate charge under Dr. McIntyre. The coolies were sent up by the contractors, and are a very inferior *jat* and physique. Fifty-six per cent. of *anchylostomiasis* was found among the labour force, of which 36 per cent. was detected among the newly-imported coolies. Under the circumstances it is no wonder the sickness and mortality of the garden are so high.

"The death rate—

	Act.	Non-Act.
In 1888	12·92	6·40
„ 1889	11·62	9·27
„ 1890	11·71	5·87

"*Recommendations.*—In order to minimize, if not put a stop to, the percentage of *anchylostomiasis*, and consequently of high death rate, it is necessary to have a systematic medical inspection of the coolies at least once a month to pick out anæmia cases, who are to be segregated in separate blocks of lines with their drinking water and conservancy arrangements quite apart from the others. Good regimen and thymol treatment are to be adopted from the beginning. A diplomaed man of some experience is to be entertained to carry out the above under Dr. McIntyre's superintendence."

The Deputy Commissioner writes—

"The garden will be carefully watched, and if the Civil Surgeon's recommendations are not carried out, a second committee will have to be held. It is clear that the garden is one for which recruiting ought to be very carefully supervised. But that means expense, and agents and owners are not always alive to their real interests in this matter."

GHOGRA, the next garden on the list, has been, at all events for a time, abandoned.

45. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Nowgong and the causes of the deaths :

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

Unhealthy on Act population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Ramsing grant ...	256	270	24	9	33	93·7	33·3	127·0
Sokunbari	124	118	5	5	10	40·3	42·3	82·6
Total	380	388	29	14	43	76·3	36·0	112·3

Causes of deaths.

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Ramsing grant	11	5	2	.....	2	13	33
Sokunbari	5	2	.....	.....	.....	3	10
Total	16	7	2	.....	2	16	43

Unhealthy on non-Act population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Amguri	60	56	10	1	11	166·6	17·8	184·4

Causes of deaths.

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Amguri	10	1	.....	.....	... .	.....	11

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Owguri	160	171	12	3	15	75·0	17·5	92·5
Old Salona	224	230	11	9	20	49·1	39·1	88·2
Total	384	401	23	12	35	59·8	29·9	89·7

Causes of deaths.

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Owguri	2	.....	6	.....	1	6	15
Old Salona	6	3	1	.....	.....	10	20
Total	8	3	7	.....	1	16	35

In the preceding year six gardens were unhealthy in the Nowgong district, and there has therefore been considerable improvement. All the gardens which appeared on the unhealthy list in 1889 were twice inspected during the year under report, and with one exception (that of Owguri) some of them appear on the present list. The acknowledgments of the Chief Commissioner are due to Major Gray, the Deputy Commissioner, and to Dr. McNaught, the Civil Medical Officer, for the thorough manner in which they have dealt with this branch of the work.

Ramsing grant and Sokunbari were unhealthy over the Act population only. As regards the Ramsing grant, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

Ramsing grant.

" This is one of the gardens belonging to the Salona Tea Company. In the year 1884 a committee sat upon this garden and made a few recommendations, as the garden had previously appeared on the unhealthy list in 1882 and 1883. Its adjacent gardens, Hatibandha and Nowpani, were closed to Act labourers who have been

in Assam less than two years. This garden since then has improved much. But a serious outbreak of cholera in 1890 has thrown back the garden into the unhealthy list. There were 26 deaths from cholera alone, 11 were among Act and 15 were among non-Act. I personally visited this garden on the 12th August 1890, and enquired into the cause of the outbreak of cholera in this garden. The remarks then I recorded are given below.

"The only point I had to recommend was the construction of sheds over all the wells and their iron cisterns. The manager promises to carry out the suggestion as soon as possible.

"There has been a severe outbreak of cholera somehow this year. It occurred in May last, 23 deaths resulted from cholera alone. The cause is attributed to the water supply having run short just about that time in the two *pucca* wells in the Bengali labourers' lines, and to the fact when this occurred the *pucca* wells in the Cachari lines were resorted to, where the same strict rules had not been enforced as regards the use of one specially-appointed bucket for drawing water (the Cacharis having always been accustomed to use their own vessels indiscriminately), and also with regard to the keeping of the immediate surroundings of the wells scrupulously clean. There can be but little doubt that these causes combined to pollute the water of these wells, but the employers plead that they had not the same degree of control over their Cachari free labourers as they had over Act coolies and other Bengali and imported people. Under these circumstances, however, the Cachari wells should not have been brought into use obviously. Since the outbreak of cholera, however, the manager has taken action in various ways to remedy matters, the wells in question have been thoroughly cleaned out and lime put down there; iron cisterns with brass taps have been added, and the drawing of water has been prohibited to all but certain Bengali coolies specially appointed for the purpose, and hence the indiscriminate use of their own vessels by others has been wholly stopped. The surroundings of the wells are moreover kept as carefully clean as in the case of all other wells in the Bengali lines, all which seems to prove that when they choose the managers can insist on doing the proper thing in such matters, even though they may not have the same degree of legal authority over their free Cacharis.

"On receipt of the first half-yearly returns, I found that this garden would come on to the list of unhealthy gardens for the year under report, so I deputed the Civil Medical Officer in December to make a special inspection of this garden. He went out accordingly. The date of his medical inspection was the 13th December 1890. The recommendations both of Dr. McNaught and myself were sent on to the manager for his guidance and prompt action. I am glad to report that the manager is apparently doing his best to give effect to the sanitary measures recommended. The death rate among non-Act labourers is 4·86. It is healthy as regards this class of labourers. A copy of the Civil Medical Officer's remarks is herewith reproduced."

The Civil Medical Officer's report was as follows :

"The strength of the labour force was—

	Act I.	Non-Act.
Men	138	201
Women	126	206
Boys and girls	...	335
Infants	...	56
Total	264	798

"*Lines and drainage.*—The lines are favourably situated on a sufficiently-elevated open space, and not liable to inundation. The houses are mostly of sundried brick walls, a few being *ekra* mud plastered, each being arranged for two families. It is intended to construct the whole of the lines of sundried bricks; the roofs are of thatch and they are all repaired once a year. There are good drains between the lines of houses; these have a good outfall.

"*Latrines.*—There are no latrines. The people frequent the spaces between the tea bushes and the jungle. There are a number of pigs belonging to the coolies, and it is well known what useful scavengers these are! There was no fæcal odour apparent.

"*Food.*—There is a weekly market held at Salona about 4 miles distant, where food in all varieties is obtainable. It is held on Sunday, so that the coolies have an opportunity of going to it. Rice is also largely imported from Bengal and supplied to the coolies. There are two shops near the lines, in which the ordinary food articles are sold. I examined the rice, *dal*, salt, &c., in both these shops, and found nothing objectionable in the quality of the articles of food except that in one shop the *dal* was rather dusty, and this was pointed out to shopkeeper and manager, and directions given to have it cleaned properly. As far as could be learned, the food eaten by the coolies is sufficient, but as they buy and cook their own food, except in some few instances, it is difficult to control the quantity or quality of food eaten by them, but where possible the use of diseased meat or unfit articles of food is prohibited by the manager. Some of the people have cows, and they use the milk for themselves. In the hot weather and rains there is sufficient time given them to cook their food.

"*Hotel and dieting.*—There is a system of dieting the weakly coolies and the sick at the hotel. There is a separate cook house and dining shed near the hospital buildings. The sick receive such extra diet as is ordered for them by the medical officer. It could not be ascertained that any classes of coolies suffered from change of diet. For cooking as well as for drinking only well water is used.

"*Water supply.*—The water supply is from three *pucca* wells; these have a thatched roof over each of them. The water is drawn by coolies specially appointed by means of a large tin and rope, and is filled into an iron cistern, from which the coolies draw the water by means of a tap. The supply is ample and good. The mouths of the wells are slightly raised above the level of the ground, they are not closed in by boards and trap doors as in some places. Wells should have close fitted covers with trap doors, or if under a roof should have the edge raised by brickwork to about 2½ feet, and the edge finished off to a thinness sufficient to prevent any one standing upon it; this prevents drippings from falling back into the well. The wells were cleaned out. The surroundings are clean, drained

properly, and in good order. I recommended to manager that covers should be properly fitted to the well mouths with trap door. Where the coolies are working at a distance, water is taken to them by water carriers, so as to remove the temptation of drinking foul or doubtful water from other sources. The people are prohibited from drinking or cooking with the water from streams. As noted in the inspection report, one of the wells ran dry for a short time, and a suspicion fell upon the promiscuous use of utensils to obtain water from the Cachari lines well, but it could not be certainly shown that this was the cause of the cholera outbreak.

"The gardens of this Company are supervised by Dr. Rudduck. The native doctor is Preonath Chatterji, a vernacular licentiate of medicine of the Campbell Medical School. I saw his diploma. There is a dispensary and a proper supply of medicines kept under charge of the native doctor, who resides here. The stock is replenished, as required, from the headquarters at Salona. I noticed and pointed out to manager and to Dr. Rudduck that several poisonous drugs were kept openly on a *chang* along with other medicines. As it did not appear to me that poisonous drugs are properly kept, I directed that these were to be separated and stored in a cupboard or box so as to lessen liability to accidents. I think that some general rules are required about custody of poisonous drugs on tea gardens.

"On the 13th December there were 20 on the sick list. The diseases were weakness, anæmia, dropsy, dysentery, fever, syphilis, and accidents.

"*Beri-beri* used to prevail largely, but since the use of thymol it is neither so prevalent nor near so fatal. A special register used to be kept of the cases treated by thymol, but it is now considered unnecessary, but many cases of *beri-beri* are treated every year by Dr. Rudduck with great success. Those under treatment are properly fed and cared for.

"The name of *kála-azár* is not in use in this district, and no cases are called by it.

"The mortality from 16th August 1889 to 13th December 1890 was 90, *viz.*, 35 Act persons and 55 non-Act. Of the Act persons, 23 were men and 12 women. The non-Act comprised 25 men, 12 women, and 18 children. Analysis of the deaths recorded show that the causes were —

Cholera	26
Pneumonia	10
Old age	11
Dysentery	9
Fever	6
Bronchitis	6
Debility	4
Diarrhœa	3
Anchylostomiasis	3
Influenza	2
Convulsions	2
Dropsy	1
Abortion	1
Other diseases	4
Unspecified	2
Total	90

"Cholera broke out on the lines on the 11th May 1890 in epidemic form. Deaths occurred on the following dates :

		Comprising	
		Act I.	Non-Act.
11th May	5 deaths.		
12th „	2 „		
13th „	3 „		
15th „	2 „		
16th „	2 „		
17th „	3 „		
18th „	1 „		
19th „	3 „		
20th „	2 „		
21st „	*Nil.*		
24th „	2 „		
Men		7	7
Women		4	5
Children		...	3
Total		11	15

"Previous to this outbreak one death occurred on 21st April, a man named Mundoo, who arrived in the garden in June 1885.

"Amongst these their arrival on the garden was in—

April 1890	2
March „	1
February 1890	3
In year 1889	6
„ 1888	4
„ 1887	2
Other years	2
Unspecified	6
Total	26

The cases occurred very generally over the lines and were not confined to any particular class or to any part more than another. The epidemic lasted only about eleven days. There was no vacation of the lines. The usual disinfection was done. The cause of the outbreak cannot be satisfactorily traced.

"The general health of the coolies now is good, there is little sickness at present. Vaccination is now being done. The children are cared for and appear generally healthy. Hitherto this garden has been healthy on the whole, and had it not been for the epidemic outbreak of cholera would not have been classed as unhealthy in present year.

The death rate was—

	1887.	1888.	1889.	Inspection up to August 1890.
Act	2·48	4·30	2·37	10·85
Non-Act	3·63	7·46	5·61	5·20

"The recommendation made by the Deputy Commissioner at his inspections that sheds should be constructed over the wells has been carried out. The general medical and sanitary supervision of the garden is satisfactory."

In regard to Sokunbari the Deputy Commissioner writes—

Sokunbari.

"This garden is the headquarter of the group of gardens comprising the Kondoli division of the Salona Tea Company. It employs both Act and non-Act coolies. It appeared in the unhealthy list of 1886. Since then, it has improved much. But an outbreak of cholera contributed much towards increasing the percentage of the mortality in the garden this year. Out of 10 deaths, all from cholera, 5 were among Act coolies, and 4 were among non-Act coolies. Dr. Rudduck visits this garden once a month, and the residing native doctor is stated to be a passed student of the Campbell Medical School. The death rate is heavy among Act labourers, that of the non-Act labourers being only 3·44 on an average of 646 souls. It was twice inspected during the year under report. Dr. McNaught visited this garden on the 15th August 1890, while he was on his periodical inspection duty. The special medical inspection after the garden had been found unhealthy is dated the 25th March 1891. A copy of his remarks in herewith attached. These show that there are really no instructions to be specially urged on the manager for action in any particular direction."

Dr. McNaught's inspection report dated the 25th March 1891 was as follows :

"The manager is Mr. A. A. K. Campbell. The following is the strength on the day of inspection :

Act coolies.

	Total.	At work.	Not working.	Sick.	Absent. With leave.	Absent. Without leave.
Men	57	51	...	3	3	...
Women	57	44	...	5	8	...
Total	114	95	...	8	11	...

Non-Act.

Men	131	101	5	15	4	6
Women	113	97	5	7	4	...
Boys	80	28	40	4	...	8
Girls	72	24	39	3	...	6
Infants	86	...	83	3	...	...
Total	482	250	172	32	8	20

"The sick list comprises the usual ailments,—fevers, cough, debility, diarrhœa, &c. During 1890 the deaths were Act 10 with percentage of 8·26 and non-Act 18 with percentage of 3·49.

"The deaths occurred under the following heads :

	Act.	Non-Act.	Total.
Cholera	5	5	10
Debility	...	1	1
Fever	...	3	3
Beri-beri	...	1	1
Dysentery	2	2	4
Diarrhœa	1	...	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Pleurisy	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	1	1
Childbirth	1	1	2
Others	...	2	2
Total	10	18	28

"The death rate of Act coolies in 1889 was 2·34. At an inspection of the whole of the Act labourers, six persons, all women, were pointed out as suffering from *beri-beri* and in need of the thymol treatment. This treatment has been extensively used during the past several years with marked good results. A list of those so treated is kept. Generally speaking, the coolies are healthy and cared for.

"The Hospital Assistant is Hedayatdin, and Dr. Rudduck visits once a month.

"There is an ample supply of medicines. There is a dispensary, where the sick are seen and prescribed for every morning, those unable to attend are attended to in their huts.

"Those requiring it receive extra diet, such as milk, sago, soup.

"There were six births registered during the year. Vaccination has been extensively done in the past cold season.

"The water-supply is from two *pucca* wells, these are covered over and fitted with pumps. Water from the wells is supplied to the coolies at work at a distance from the lines.

"The site of the lines is a good one, well drained, not subject to inundation, and they are in good order and clean.

"There are no latrines; the people frequent the spaces between the tea bushes,—these spaces are regularly hoed up; the jungle is also used.

"Provisions are cheap and readily procurable at the Rangati *hát* held every Sunday. It is only a mile distant. All sorts of country vegetables, fowls, pigeons, ducks, goats, &c., at fair rates are obtainable during the past half year. Rice has been quite cheap, four annas for five-seer measure.

"The people seem to be fairly well off, contented, and healthy, and had it not been for a few cases of cholera in June and July, there would have been no excess in the death rate. The cause of the cholera was not clear, but the district villages suffered from cholera at the time. The people are prohibited from drinking the water from the stream, and they certainly have no occasion to do so. There was no sudden change of diet. The hours for labour and the time for cooking food are the same as obtain in other gardens. There were no previous instructions uncomplied with. When cholera has been reported amongst batches *en route* or on the steamers, segregation is carried out.

"There is nothing else special to remark."

In regard to Amguri, which is unhealthy over the non-Act population, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

Amguri.

"This is a small garden employing principally local free coolies. It is under the same management with the Palkhai tea estate. This garden has not appeared on the unhealthy list of previous years. All of the deaths on this garden were from cholera with the exception of one death due to dysentery. Dr. McNaught visited the garden on the 13th July 1890 and again on the 13th March 1891 after finding that this garden had been declared unhealthy in 1890.

"A copy of his remarks is given below:

"'This is an outgarden of the Palkhai tea estate in charge of Mr. J. B. Atkins. There is a muharrir in charge. The area is said to be 80 acres. There are no Act-I labourers. The strength on day of inspection was non-Act—

Men	31
Women	14
Children	8
Infants	9
Establishment	5
Total	67

"'Of these, 27 men, 12 women, and 8 children were at work. They were not mustered. The coolies comprise Kacháris, Nepalis, and Bengalis.

"'During 1889 the death rate was 1·4 for non-Act, Act I none. There were 10 deaths in the first half of 1890, with a percentage of 16·66, and one death in second half, with a percentage of 1·78. Total 11 deaths and 18·44 per cent., all non-Act.

"'During 1891 there has been no death. Thus, figures indicate that some exceptional cause has been at work to cause the high percentage of mortality, and this was found to be an outbreak of cholera, which occurred in April 1890. The disease is said to have been introduced with a batch of Kachári coolies that came to the garden. One of these had cholera on the road, and arrived at the garden suffering from the disease. After this during 11 days there were 10 deaths, including the first man referred to, *viz.*, 6 Kacháris, 2 Nepalis, 2 Bengalis, comprising 6 adults and 4 children, since which the garden has been healthy. There has been one death since the outbreak of cholera, *viz.*, one girl from other causes. The lines are on a good site on the raised plateau of the garden, and close to the trunk road; there is good natural drainage, and the lines are not subject to inundation. The houses are in good repair, and the place is fairly clean.

"'The people frequent the market at Jaklabandha, about 4½ miles distant, where common rice was being sold at 5 annas per measure of 5 seers. There is a shop on the garden also, the articles sold in it were examined and found to be good.

"'The drinking water is from a small stream that flows from the hills and passes by the lines. There is no well, and it is quite probable that if one was provided the people would not use it. The water of the stream is of course quite unprotected, bathing, washing of clothes and vessels, &c., are carried on in it. Under such circumstances it would be easy to contaminate the water by cholera discharges. There is a supply of simple medicines kept at the garden in charge of the muharrir and administered by him. The supply is replenished from the stock at Palkhai. There is nothing else requiring special remark.'"

As regards Owguri, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"This garden employs both Act and non-Act labourers. It appeared on the unhealthy lists of 1889, 1888, 1884, 1883, and 1882. It has again appeared on the unhealthy list of 1890. It has been continuously on the unhealthy list for three consecutive years. In the year 1889 the death rate was slightly over 7 per cent., the number of deaths being 11 (5 Act and 6 non-Act). The death rate in the year under report is 9·25 on the whole labour force of the garden, *viz.*, among Act 5·55 only, but among the non-Act 10·99. It is the deaths among the non-Act coolies that have raised the percentage of mortality to the unhealthy limit. In the previous year the death-rate was heavy among the Act labourers only. This garden was subjected to much inspection during the year. Dr. McNaught inspected it on the 29th March 1890. It was again inspected by me on the 13th September 1890.

"The mortality on this garden for the last three years—

	1890.	1889.	1888.
Act	5·55	8·44	13·81
Non-Act	10·99	6·31	21·81

The garden was again inspected on the 31st March 1891 by Dr. McNaught, who reported as follows:

"The last inspection was on the 13th September 1890. The manager is Mr. A. H. Green, who resides at Killing. The strength on day of inspection was—

	Total.	At work.	Not working.	Sick.	Absent with leave.
Act—					
Men	24	24	...	...	...
Women	17	14	...	1	2
Total	41	38	...	1	2
Non-Act—					
Men ...	30	28	...	1	1
Women ...	32	31	...	...	1
Children	72	17	55	...	...
Total	134	76	55	1	2

"The death-rate—

	For 1890. Number.	Per cent.	For1889.
Act	3	5·55	8·44
Non-Act	12	10·99	6·31

"There have been only two deaths since the previous inspection on 13th September, both non-Act persons, children. The deaths were due to cholera, respiratory affections occurring during influenza, and fever. The sick are treated in the lines, but should any be more seriously ill, they are sent to Killing, which is now the headquarter garden. There is but little sickness now, and the coolies are healthy. There have been 4 men, 3 women, and 3 children treated with thymol during the past year.

"No *beri-beri* cases now.

"There have been 10 births in 1890 and 4 since.

"Twenty-four children have been successfully vaccinated during the past cold season.

"The medical officer is Dinanath De. He visits every day, but resides at Killing. There is an ample supply of medicines.

"The lines are in good order and repair, sufficiently well drained, and the houses are raised on earthen plinths; they are provided with cots or *changs*.

"There is a very good *pucca* well with iron cistern and four taps under cover of a good shed. The tank is kept constantly filled. The coolies now appreciate this improved water supply.

"There are no latrines. The coolies frequent the jungle or spaces between the tea bushes.

"Food supplies are plentiful, cheap, and freely procurable at Nelli *hát*, 4 miles distant, held on Monday. Rice is now selling at 4 annas per measure of 5 seers or *don*.

"The manager complains that in the Khásia Rája's land just across the river opposite his lines country liquor is largely manufactured and is sold to the coolies at four annas per bottle, while its cheapness, and being so conveniently procurable, is prejudicial to the gardens around, increases the sickness and possibly the death rate.

"From what I saw of the lines, the coolies, and the hygienic arrangements, I feel satisfied that the manager takes great interest in his people and does his best to maintain their health.

"There are no other points of importance calling for remark."

The remarks made about the supply of unduly cheap country liquor to the coolies of this garden will be separately dealt with.

As regards Old Salona, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"This is the first time that this garden has appeared on the unhealthy list. It has hitherto had a good reputation as a healthy garden, though the adjoining garden, Rangamati, under the same management and under the supervision of the same medical officer, has in previous years been pronounced to be unhealthy. There are three gardens belonging to the Nonoi Tea Company. These are Nonoi, Rangamati, and Old Salona. All are under one manager, and under the care of one medical officer, Dr. Rudduck, and visited weekly by him. The native doctor is reported by Dr. McNaught to be a properly qualified man. He resides on the headquarter garden, Rangamati, and visits the Old Salona garden daily. Serious cases are taken to the headquarter garden for treatment, medicines, medical comforts, &c., being kept at the latter. The death rate is high among both classes of labourers, Act and non-Act, being 9·65 for Act and 8·35 for non-Act. The number of deaths were 8 and 12 respectively, during the year under report.

"There were a few cases of cholera. If the cholera deaths be excluded, the percentage of deaths would stand at 4·81 for Act and 6·99 for non-Act labourers.

"I inspected this garden on the 8th August 1890. The remarks then I made are as follows:

"'There was nothing to call for special remarks on this garden. There is no reason for supposing the garden to be in any way an unhealthy one. The occurrence of a few cases of cholera this year was probably due to the prevalence of that disease generally over the district, and not to any local cause.'

"The Civil Medical Officer inspected this garden on the 16th March 1891. A copy of his medical remarks is given below :

"'The manager is Mr. W. H. Lyall, who resides at the headquarter garden, Rangamati.

"'The following is the strength on the day of inspection :

	Total.	At work.	Sick.	On leave.	Recruiting.
Act—					
Men	47	41	2	1	3
Women	41	33	4	4	...
Total	88	74	6	5	3
Non-Act—					
Men	30	24	1	2	3
Women	33	25	5	3	...
Children	22	20	2	...	...
Infants and non-working children	58	55	3	...	...
... ...	143	124	11	5	3

"'During 1890 the deaths were Act 8, with a percentage of 9·65, and non-Act 12, with a percentage of 8·35.

"'The death registration shows the following death causes during the year 1890 :

	Total.	Act.	Non-Act.
Cholera	6	4	2
Pneumonia	1	1	...
Diarrhœa	1	...	1
Fever	1	...	1
Dysentery	3	2	1
Childbirth	1	1	...
Wasting	3	...	3
Other causes	4	...	4
Total	20	8	12

"'There were no deaths registered as having occurred from *anchylostomiasis* or *beri-beri*. At an inspection of the whole of the Act labourers and their children, only two cases of this affection were found that had not already been treated with thymol. Several persons had already been treated two and three times with the remedy with marked benefit. The medical officer is on the alert to diagnose the disease, and such as are found suffering with it are sent to the headquarter garden to be treated there with thymol and the hotel system of feeding. Cases of any other grave ailment are also sent into the headquarter garden for care and treatment, but ordinary ailments are treated in the lines. There is a very good and capable Hospital Assistant, Mohammed Ahmed, and Dr. Rudduck visits the garden once a week. There is an ample supply of medicine at Rangamati, and the Hospital Assistant visits every day and sends the necessary medicines.

"'The drainage of the lines is good, and the site is sufficiently elevated above the neighbouring land to be above flood level, and the houses are raised on earthen plinths. There are no latrines; the coolies frequent the spaces between the tea bushes, which are frequently being hoed over.

"'The food supply is sufficient and is procurable at the Salóna *hát* about 2 miles distant, which is held every Sunday. Rice is from one anna to five pice per seer according to quality. There is a large and varied supply of country vegetables, fowls, goats, &c., also procurable. The hours and arrangements for cooking food are the same as on the surrounding gardens.

"'Those unable to look after themselves are sent to the hospital at Rangamati and dieted there.

"'There have been no sudden changes of diet or deficiency in ordinary food supplies. The water supply consists of one earthenware pipe well (Burn and Co. pipes) for one group of houses. It is said to have a constant supply of water, but from its small diameter it is not sufficient. For a second group of houses there is a *cutcha* well. There are no pumps or cisterns fitted to these. In the Deputy Commissioner's inspection report dated the 8th August 1890, it is remarked 'Another *pucca* well with a pump will be constructed next cold season probably.'

"'The manager tells me he has ordered a number of earthenware rings of 30″ diameter, and intends making two wells by that means. He states that such wells are cheaper than *pucca* ones. This may be so, but I think that a *pucca* well of at least 5 feet diameter, properly sunk in the driest season to below the permanent spring level, fitted with a pump and iron cistern with taps and the well mouth properly raised and covered over is a far better arrangement. The manager tells me the coolies while at work at a distance from the lines are supplied with water from the wells in the lines.

"'It is noted in the inspection report that the people bathe 'in the Iboigung, a stream close by,' and 'the water of this is not used for drinking.' There is a small tank with dirty stagnant water close by. I pointed out the great necessity there is to prevent the coolies using its water for any purpose.

"'There is a shop near. I examined the grain and other articles for sale, and found them good.

"'The diseases that prevailed were then usually found on tea gardens, and had it not been for the six deaths from cholera, the percentage would not have been high.

"'Generally speaking, the garden has been healthy, and the only points I would urge on the manager's attention are the water supply to be improved at once, and that the annual repairs to the houses in the lines be done at once. There are no other points that appear to require special remark.'"

It is noteworthy that Dr. McNaught prepared and circulated among the managers of gardens a *précis* of a pamphlet published by Dr. Harkins on the subject of "Vagus' treatment of cholera."

46. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Sibságar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

Unhealthy on Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	Sapakati	216	209	3	13	16	13·8	62·2	76·0
	Teok	226	247	6	16	22	26·5	64·7	91·2
	Sonari	330	319	7	17	24	21·2	53·2	74·4
	Mybella	142	141	4	7	11	28·1	49·6	77·7
Jorhát ...	Khorikotia	360	348	20	8	28	55·5	22·9	78·4
	Soicatta	420	412	16	16	32	38·1	38·8	76·9
	Noabari	160	180	5	9	14	31·2	50·0	81·2
	Daklangia	225	240	4	14	18	17·7	58·3	76·0
Golághát ...	Dygroon	355	401	13	15	28	36·6	37·4	74·0
	Bihora	170	188	7	7	14	41·1	37·2	78·3
	Difflu	175	169	9	6	15	51·4	35·5	86·9
	Missamara	201	187	17	8	25	84·5	42·7	127·2
	Total	2,980	3,041	111	136	247	37·2	44·7	81·9

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	Sapakati ...	3	2	1	1	1	8	16
	Teok	7	13	.....	.....	.....	2	22
	Sonari	1	7	1	1	3	11*	24
	Mybella	3	1	3	.....	.....	4	11
Jorhát ...	Khorikotia ...	10	3	6	.....	.....	9	28
	Soicatta	2	8	.....	6	5	11	32
	Noabari	.....	3	1	.....	.....	10	14
	Daklangia ...	5	.....	4	.....	6	3	18
Golághát ...	Dygroon	13	3	1	.....	.....	11	28
	Bihora	.....	1	1	1	.....	11	14
	Diffloo	5	6	.....	2	.....	2	15
	Missamara ...	9	5	3	.....	.....	8	25
	Total	58	52	21	11	15	90	247

* Includes one death from *kála-azár*.

Unhealthy on non-Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Sadr	Napuk	216	247	9	12	21	41·6	48·5	90·1
Golághát	Jaboka	174	173	6	9	15	34·4	52·0	86·4
	Letekujan	606	533	26	15	41	42·9	28·1	71·0
	Rangoliting	239	258	14	4	18	58·5	15·5	74·0
	Total	1,235	1,211	55	40	95	44·5	33·0	77·5

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr... ...	Napuk	3	.....	4	.....	7	7	21
	Jaboka	2	3	2	1	.....	7	15
Golághát ...	Letekujan ...	16	3	3	.....	2	17	41
	Rangoliting ...	9	5	2	.....	.....	2	18
	Total	30	11	11	1	9	33	95

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength. First half year.	Mean strength. Second half year.	Deaths. First half year.	Deaths. Second half year.	Deaths. Total.	Ratio per mille. First half year.	Ratio per mille. Second half year.	Ratio per mille. Annual.
Sadr	Kanubari	195	180	5	10	15	25·6	55·5	81·1
	Khumtai	492	533	23	13	36	46·7	24·3	71·0
	Nazira	183	134	19	1	20	103·8	7·4	111·2
	Rajabari	530	546	57	12	69	107·5	21·9	129·4
Jorhát	Hatijuri	107	103	10	....	10	93·4	....	93·4
Golághát	Wokha	436	433	18	14	32	41·2	32·3	73·5
	Oating	350	337	18	9	27	51·4	26·7	78·1
	Deering	255	214	52	12	64	203·9	56·0	259·9
	Hatikuli	739	739	48	29	77	64·9	39·2	104·1
	Haotoli	511	521	57	7	64	111·5	13·4	124·9
	Dhansiri	574	480	58	16	74	101·0	33·3	134·3
	Total	4,372	4,220	365	123	488	83·4	29·1	112·5

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Kanubari	1	8	....	1	3	2	15
	Khumtai	3	8	3	3	....	19	36
	Nazira	17	....	1	....	....	1	20
	Rajabari	55	8	1	1	....	5	69
Jorhát	Hatijuri	10	....	....	....	....	....	10
Golághát	Wokha	4	15	4	1	3	4	32
	Oating	....	6	2	....	2	17	27
	Deering	49	11	2	....	....	2	64
	Hatikuli	56	10	8	3	....	5	77
	Haotoli	52	2	....	....	....	10	64
	Dhansiri	45	12	3	2	....	12	74
	Total	292	80	19	11	8	78	488

Thus the number of unhealthy gardens was 27, against 33 in the previous year, distributed as follows :

	1889.	1890.
Unhealthy on Act-I population only	12	12
„ „ non-Act population only	3	4
„ „ total population	18	11
Total	33	27

Regarding the mortality generally, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"The list of unhealthy gardens has been enormously swollen by cholera. If cholera be excluded, the number would be reduced from 27 to 9. These are the following :

"*In Sadr.*—Sonari, Napuk, Joboka, Kanubari.

"*In Jorhát.*—Soicatta, Noabari.

"*In Golághát.*—Bihora, Missamara, Oating.

"Khorikotia, Doklongia, Difflu are the only gardens that appear again on the list of gardens unhealthy among Act labourers alone.

"None of the gardens unhealthy for non-Act labourers only in the previous year appear again.

"Of the 18 gardens shown as unhealthy in 1889, from calculations based on the deaths among Act and non-Act labourers taken together, six have been transferred to the two other lists, three are shown again, and nine are shown for the first time in the two years, that is only twelve gardens have been unhealthy two years running, while only three have been unhealthy for any particular class of labourers during the two years.

"I give below the names of the gardens which have been more than once on the unhealthy list during past three years :

Kanubari	... 1889	Soicatta	... 1889	Bihora	... 1888 & 1889
Teok	1888 & 1889	Khorikotia	... 1889	Difflu	... 1889
Sonari	... 1889	Daklangia	... 1889	Deering	... 1889
Napuk	... 1889	Noabari	... 1888	Hatikuli	... 1889
Joboka	... 1889	Dhansiri	... 1889		

"The high mortality in 7 of the above 14 gardens, which appear a second time in the unhealthy list, is due to cholera. Committees under section 128, Act I of 1882, have been assembled since the close of the year on Bihora, Hatikuli, and Deering tea gardens, and the reports forwarded.

All these gardens have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his reports or from the reports of the committees of which he was a member :

SAPAKATI (*inspected on the 21st February 1891*)—

"Most of these deaths resulted from cholera, *beri-beri*, and bowel-complaints. The insanitary condition of the garden has much to do with the prevalence of these diseases.

"*The lines.*—Overcrowded on low land, drains shallow. Huts on very low plinths. Huts in which cholera cases occurred last year are still standing and being occupied by coolies.

"*Water-supply.*—Unsatisfactory. The present tank is shallow. Its water yellow coloured, and contains a large quantity of suspended matter (vegetable and mineral). It is not fenced in.

"*Present health of coolies.*—All Act coolies were mustered. They looked fairly healthy. Two cases of *beri-beri* noticed among them, one a Bhuyiah and the other a Bhumiz. I noticed also some cases of venereal diseases, and chiefly among the newly-imported coolie women. These diseases were most probably contracted by the coolies before they arrived at the garden.

"*Recommendations.*—The present lines should be gradually abandoned, and new lines should be built on high land. The huts in which cholera cases occurred should be pulled down immediately.

"The present tank for the supply of drinking water should be deepened and fenced in. A masonry filter tank should be attached to it. The coolies should not be allowed to drink the tank water unfiltered.

"The present manager, Mr. Rainnie, took up charge of this garden about six weeks ago, and is not at all responsible for the insanitary condition of the garden. He is working hard to improve the sanitation of the place, and looks carefully after the health of the coolies."

TEOK (*inspected on the 21st November 1890*)—

"The manager attributes the cause of the deaths in most of the cases partly to cholera and dysentery resulting from drinking the Teok river water, and partly to the negligence on the part of the native doctor being constantly intoxicated and not taking proper care of the sick. The native doctor has been changed.

"If deaths from cholera are deducted, then the death rates among the Act and non-Act coolies do not appear to be high. There has been some improvement in the sanitary and medical arrangements of the garden since last inspection. The lines are kept in better order, the tank is fenced and kept clean, and sufficient medicine and medical comforts are kept in the hospital. The general health of the coolies has improved, but still the prevailing disease in the garden continues to be *beri-beri*. During my inspection, I pointed out 35 cases of *beri-beri* (15 advanced stage and 20 incipient stage), and 10 cases of general debility, and explained the proper treatment in all these cases to the native doctor.

"The following recommendations should be carried out :

"*Lines.*—Better and more substantial huts should be built for the coolies.

"*Water supply.*—The coolies must be stopped from drinking the Teok water. The present tank should be deepened, and its water filtered before being used by the coolies for drinking purposes.

"*Food.*—The native doctor complains that the Bunniah now and then sells bad rice and *dál* to the coolies, and that putrid fish and meat (carcasses of diseased cows, &c., found in the jungle) are often brought into the lines, and eaten by the jungly coolies, and that women often eat clay from the river bank. These should be put a stop to by the manager. I am pretty sure that European medical supervision would be necessary for this garden, as the native doctor has been very careless in the discharge of his duties."

SONARI (*inspected on the 19th November 1890*)—

"Most of the deaths were due to dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera. There was also one death from *beri-beri* and one from *kála-azár*."

"The sanitary recommendations made regarding the lines at the last inspection have not been carried out. The manager says he will do so gradually. I repeat that the present site must be abandoned and new lines built away from the river bank. The huts should be more substantial, and there should be deep drains with proper outfalls.

"The quality of the water supply has been improved by erecting a masonry filter close to a small tank in the lines. This tank gets very low in the dry season, and it is not sufficient for all the coolies and dependants living in the garden, many of whom no doubt drink the Towkak water. The Rája's tank, about 1,500 yards from the present lines, is the proper place whence to obtain a pure and abundant supply of water for the coolies."

MYBELLA (*inspected on the 20th February 1891*)—

"The deaths among the Act coolies were mainly due to cholera, diarrhœa, and debility. The following insanitary conditions were noticed during my inspection.

"*Lines.*—Dirty and badly drained and too close to the Suffrai river. Huts generally small and dark.

"*Water supply.*—Very unsatisfactory. The coolies drink the dangerous water of the Suffrai river.

"I paraded all the Act coolies, and pointed out to the compounder five cases of *beri-beri* among them. They were new coolies from Manbhum and Bankura, and belong to the 'Korah and Punkah' castes.

"*Recommendations.*—The lines should be removed from the vicinity of the Suffrai river. Better and more comfortable huts on high plinths should be built for the coolies. Coolies should be supplied with good drinking water. Either two *pucca* wells should be sunk, or water should be carried in pipes into the lines from the Rája's tank (inside the grant) about 600 yards from the present lines."

KHORIKOTIA (*inspected twice, on the 10th March and 15th December 1890*)--

"The manager writes to say that the large mortality was due to the outbreak of cholera, which was due to the indiscreet eating and drinking at a wedding, which lasted three days.

"There were 27 deaths, including cholera, since last inspection. The disease broke out in the spring among coolies occupying huts close to the Doolie river. It lasted for two months (April and May), and there were 12 deaths, chiefly among coolies living close to the river.

"The disease disappeared as soon as the coolies stopped drinking the river water.

"*Recommendations.*—The *kutcha* lines near the Doolie river should be pulled down as soon as possible.

"No *pucca* lines or barracks built for the coolies on this side.

"The drainage in the lines is not satisfactory. The drains should be deep and properly sloped."

SOICATTA (*inspected twice, on the 13th March and 14th December 1890*)—

"The medical officer of the Jorhát Company, Dr. Montgomery, states that the majority of cases are due to the excessively debilitated state of the coolies rendering them peculiarly liable to anæmia and gastrointestinal complaint. He says he has examined the lines and the water supply, and can find nothing in them which would account for the excessive mortality. He is of opinion that it is due to the bad class of coolies combined with bad feeding.

"Death rate among the Act coolies high from dysentery and dropsy chiefly. Most of these were new coolies, and were in the garden for about a year. They generally belonged to the Bhuniah, Bowrie, and Muchi castes, all dirty feeders. I saw about 120 new coolies, and though they were being carefully fed by the manager, they still looked weak and seedy. I detected about 20 cases of *beri-beri* among them.

"*Causes of high death rate.*—Bad class of coolies imported. I believe that half the number of cases of dysentery and dropsy in the garden were really cases of *beri-beri;* and if they were taken in hand in time and treated by thymol, they would have been saved.

"The sanitary arrangements of the garden are satisfactory.

"The water supply is excellent.

"*Recommendations.*—The few remaining *kutcha* huts should be pulled down. In my opinion the medical officer should be present at the muster of coolies once every month to pick out cases of *beri-beri,* and make them over to the native doctor for proper treatment in the hospital by thymol."

NOABARI (*inspected on the 28th March 1891*)—

"Percentage of deaths high among the Act coolies during past six months from bowel complaints. These deaths occurred chiefly among the new coolies, and were due to unwholesome drinking water obtained in the garden. The garden has at present 3 narrow shallow pipe wells, their water turbid, and contains a large quantity of suspended matter.

"*Recommendations.*—The present wells should be gradually given up, and two deep *pucca* wells fitted with force pumps and filtering tanks should be constructed. The manager has already commenced sinking a deep *pucca* well, and has also got up force pumps from Calcutta for the new well.

"*Lines.*—The old lines should be given up. The houses have low plinths and their drainage is unsatisfactory.

"*Hospital.*—The present *kutcha* hospital is unsatisfactory. It is dark, low, and small. A new *pucca* hospital is very much needed in this garden."

DAKLANGIA (*inspected twice, on the 10th March and 16th December 1890*)—

"Death rate high among the Act coolies. There were a large number of deaths from cholera, *beri-beri,* and bowel complaints. The garden is unhealthy.

"*Causes of unhealthiness.*—Bad class of coolies. Deaths occurred mostly among Bhuiahs and Muchis. These people often come to hospital for diarrhœa, debility, and *beri-beri.*

"*Insanitary condition of the lines.*—They are overcrowded and badly drained.

"*Bad drinking water.*—There are at present two shallow pools of water: one is nearly dry, contains about 3 feet of water just now; the other contains about 6 feet of reddish coloured water.

"About 150 coolies were mustered. I pointed out 20 cases of *beri-beri* among them to the native doctor.

"The present lines should be gradually given up. They are unhealthy. The manager says he will commence building *pucca* lines this cold weather.

"The water supply is bad. Two *pucca* wells with pumps and filtering cisterns are urgently required. The manager intends sinking two *pucca* wells this cold weather.

"The coolies should be paraded once a month by the Doctor Babu for the early detection of cases of *beri-beri.*"

DYGROON (*inspected on the 18th March 1891*)—

"*Deaths in 1890.*—During the first half year ending 30th June there were 20 deaths, of which 16 were from cholera. The largest number of deaths occurred during the month of April. From July to 31st December there were 15 deaths, of which 4 were from cholera and 9 from diarrhœa and dysentery.

"Cholera appeared first in the Kachári lines on the bank of the Dygroon river on the 3rd of March 1890. The disease prevailed at the time in an epidemic form in the Assamese and Kachári villages across the Dygroon river. The Kacháris drank the Dygroon water, which was tainted by the cholera excreta thrown into the river by the villagers. From the Kacháris the disease spread among the Bengali coolies. The present sanitary arrangements of the garden are satisfactory.

"*The lines*—Clean, well drained, and the huts on high plinths and well ventilated.

"*The water supply*—Is now greatly improved. Masonry filter tanks with brass taps are being attached to the deep wells. This measure, when carried out, will I believe prevent the spread of cholera, and greatly reduce the number of deaths from diarrhœa and dysentery in the garden.

"*Food supply.*—Satisfactory in every way."

BIHORA (*inspected in December 1890*)—

"The number of deaths and percentage to the whole population has been—

		Deaths.	Percentage.
In 1888—Act	... ...	12	13·34
Non-Act	... ...	20	12·42
„ 1889—Act	... ...	23	14·21
Non-Act	... ...	14	7·24
„ 1890—Act	... ...	14	7·83
Non-Act	... ...	7	3·05

"The garden was inspected in December 1889 by the Civil Surgeon and in July 1890 by the Assistant Commissioner of Golághát. The defects noticed by the Civil Surgeon in 1889 had been remedied before the Assistant Commissioner's inspection. There is now a properly-qualified native doctor holding a Dacca Medical School diploma, who is attached to this garden only. Dr. S. O. Bishop also visits once a week. A hospital has been built with proper accommodation for in-patients, and there is a due supply of medicines. The lines are on high ground with deep drains round each building to carry off water to the neighbouring *bhils*. A large tank has been built, and has even at this time a fair supply of water, which is doubly filtered and drawn off through the reservoir. Coolies have now no other means of water-supply. The general health of the coolies appears to be very fair. There are some cases of *beri-beri* in hospital, and a few cases were detected at the general muster of coolies and sent to the hospital.

"In conclusion, the committee is of opinion that the manager has thoroughly remedied all the defects pointed out in the sanitary arrangements of the garden, and there is no reason why the garden should be closed to any class of coolies."

DIFFLU (*inspected on the 15th March 1891*)—

"*The lines*—Are clean and comfortable. The new lines behind the tea house, which were unhealthy, have been removed to a higher situation.

"*The water*.—The coolies get their supply from the Difflu river. The water is at present fairly good. There are no tanks or wells in the garden.

"*The drainage*—Has been much improved. It is at present satisfactory. Most of the huts are on high plinths.

"*General health.—Act coolies*.—At present no more Act coolies are imported. The present labour force is sufficient. The older coolies are getting acclimatized. Deaths among Act coolies high. Total deaths among Act coolies in 1890, 15 (cholera 5, dysentery 6, pneumonia 1, dropsy 2, and murder 1).

"Among non-Act coolies in 1890, 7 (dysentery 2, *beri-beri* 1, pneumonia 1, and murder 1). Deaths among children 2 (1 croup, 1 dysentery). Deaths chiefly due to bowel complaints.

"One death among Act coolies since January 1891 from dysentery. The prevailing diseases now are fever and cold. Average in hospital 3 per day.

"*Recommendations*.—The arrangement for the supply of drinking water is unsatisfactory. I would recommend that two *pucca* wells (with filtering tanks attached) for the supply of good drinking water to the coolies should be sunk as soon as possible.

"There should be an abler, more energetic, and better qualified native doctor in the garden. The present native doctor was not in the garden at the time of my inspection."

MISSAMARA (*inspected on the 24th March 1891*)—

"Cholera broke out in this garden on the 5th of May 1890. Its sanitary condition at the time was as follows :

"*The main lines* (*new*) were in good order, and the people were supplied with good drinking water from four deep *pucca* wells ; but the Kachári lines which were occupied mainly by the Act-I coolies were unhealthy. The lines were on low land, and the huts were dark, damp, and had low plinths. The drinking water was obtained from a well, which was condemned by me in December 1889. Previous to the outbreak of cholera in the garden, the disease prevailed in Duliahgaon, about 350 yards from the main lines. The garden coolies mixed with the villagers at the Missamara *hát* in order to purchase *dhán* and vegetables from them. The first three cases of cholera occurred in the main lines, one recovered and two died. On the 9th of May the disease attacked the Kachári lines, and within five days there were 22 cases with 11 deaths. Then these lines were vacated, and the coolies were transferred to temporary sheds about a mile and half from the factory. There were no more cases of cholera since then among the Act coolies. There were one or two isolated cases in the main lines, but as these were in good sanitary condition, the disease did not get a regular footing here.

"The Kachári lines have been completely abandoned, and the huts will be pulled down in a few days.

"Two new *pucca* wells have been sunk, and the condemned Kachári well has been closed up.

"The present *kutcha* hospital will be pulled down, and a new *pucca* hospital will be built in its place. A qualified native doctor will be appointed soon. Dr. S. O. Bishop attends the garden twice every week."

NAPUK (*inspected on the 18th November 1890*)—

"The death rate in the garden still continues very high among the non-Act labourers and dependents. Most of these deaths occurred among the children, and were mainly due to bad feeding and want of proper care on the part of the mothers.

"The coolies in the garden are recruited chiefly from the following classes : Oorongs, Sonthals, Tury, Bowris, and Bhuyahs. Of these the two last are generally lazy and sickly. They often come to hospital, never wash, destroy *changs* by making holes in them to ease themselves, eat charcoal,

earth, and all sorts of putrid meat and fish. *Beri-beri* is common among these people. At the muster I pointed out about 75 cases of anæmia (chiefly *beri-beri*) among these people.

"*Sanitary arrangements.*—The new lines are satisfactory in every way. The old lines are bad, and they are being gradually pulled down.

"*Water supply.*—In the new lines the drinking water is obtained from a large fenced tank furnished with filter arrangements. In the old lines there are three wells which are nearly dried up. The coolies generally obtain their water from the tank. I would recommend that the wells should be filled up.

"*General remarks.*—The sanitary defects pointed out at the last inspection have in a great measure been removed, and I have no doubt that has helped greatly to decrease the death rate among the coolies in the garden. When the recommendations are thoroughly carried out, the garden will be one of the healthiest in this district."

JOBOKA (*inspected on the 22nd November 1890*)—

"High death rate among non-Act coolies and dependents. Most of those deaths occurred amongst children under 10 years, principally from cholera, dysentery, and debility brought on by bad food and bad drinking water from the Towkak river; 22 cases of *beri-beri* among the Bhumij, Ghatwal, Bowris, and other very low caste people. I ordered the native doctor to admit these people into the hospital and commence the thymol system.

"*Sanitary recommendations.—Lines.*—The old lines should be pulled down. They are badly drained and dirty. The new lines should be completed this year; 18 built since last inspection.

"*Water supply.*—The tank and wells have very little water in them now. These should be deepened this cold weather. The tank water should be filtered before being used by the coolies for drinking purposes. At present many coolies drink the contaminated water of the Towkak river.

"*Hospital.*—A new hospital, as recommended by me at the last inspection, has been built. It is kept in good order.

"*General remarks.*—The manager has carried out many of the recommendations made at the last inspection. He has built a new hospital, which is now much used by the coolies and where all serious cases are treated as indoor patients. He has dug a new well and deepened the tank, but he has not been successful in obtaining a plentiful supply of good water. There was very little water in them at the time of my inspection. They should be deepened and improved. *Beri-beri* and bowel complaint will never leave the garden till the lines and water-supply become thoroughly satisfactory."

LETEKUJAN (*inspected on the 18th March 1891*)—

"The garden is at present healthy, the death rates among the Act and non-Act coolies being very low. During 1890 there were 82 deaths, of which 41 occurred among the Act coolies and 41 among the non-Acts and dependents. Most of these deaths were due to epidemic cholera.

"This disease broke out in the early part of February in a Kachári village, called Morungi. From thence it spread to the Kachári lines of Dygroon tea estate. From Dygroon it reached Letekujan through the medium of the Letekujan *hát*, where the garden coolies and the villagers met every Friday.

"The sanitary and medical arrangements and the water supply of the garden are very satisfactory."

RANGOLITING (*inspected on the 24th March 1891*)—

"There are only 45 Act coolies and 295 non-Act coolies and dependents in this garden. Cholera occurred here in May last, and continued till the end of June. Most of these deaths occurred among the non-Acts and dependants, many of whom used to live outside the lines. There was cholera at the time in the neighbouring villages of Missamara, Ghotokai, Hashwal, and Duergaon.

"This year (1891) there have been 4 deaths from cholera up to date. The last case occurred on the 6th of March.

"The following sanitary measures have been already adopted by the garden authorities:

(*a*) A new cholera hospital has been built.
(*b*) The huts where cholera cases occurred have been pulled down.
(*c*) Drains have been cleared and deepened.
(*d*) A chaukidár has been appointed to prevent coolies taking water from the Dooriah river.
(*e*) The clothes, excreta, &c., of the cholera patients have been disinfected and buried far away from the lines.

"I noticed the following sanitary defects during my inspection:

(*a*) The huts have very low plinths, and there is much overcrowding in the lines. These defects must be removed.
(*b*) The water supply is unsatisfactory. There is one *pucca* pump well. It is shallow and its water muddy. There is no doubt the garden coolies often drink the Dooriah water, which is poisonous. Another well is being dug. The water supply must be improved.
(*c*) A chaukidár serves out medicines in this garden with 250 souls. A qualified compounder must be kept here."

KANUBARI (*inspected on the 23rd November 1890*)—

"High death rate among the Act coolies from dysentery and anæmia. I have no doubt that many of these were cases of *beri-beri*, and if thymol had been given in time would have recovered. The native doctor is quite incompetent. He can neither diagnose a case of *beri-beri* nor does he know anything about treatment by thymol. I recommended his removal at the last inspection.

"The drinking water arrangements are still unsatisfactory. The contaminated water of the Balijan stream is still used. A *pucca* well should be sunk as early as possible. I also made this recommendation at the last inspection.

"I am glad to report that Mr. Pearce, manager, head factory at Sonari, has promised to carry out these recommendations as soon as possible."

KHUMTAI (*inspected on the 4th December 1890*)—

"*Present health.*—Good ; only a few cases of fever, lung diseases, and debility in hospital now. I inspected about 200 coolies, and pointed out 6 cases of *beri-beri* to the compounder, and recommended the proper treatment.

"*Lines.*—Satisfactory. Too many pigs live in the place. They burrow holes everywhere. It would be much better if their number could be reduced.

"*Water supply.*—Very fair at present ; but taking into consideration the fact that a good few cases of bowel complaints including cholera and chronic diarrhœa occur here every year, I would recommend that *pucca* masonry filters should be attached to each well, and the coolies should be allowed to drink nothing but filtered water. The bathing arrangements are also unsatisfactory. At present the coolies go to Dhansiri river, about a mile off from the garden, for the purpose. I recommend a bathing tank in the garden.

"The compounder is not competent. He is to appear before me six months hence for examination. The man is hard working and very willing."

NAZIRA (*inspected on the 31st October 1890*)—

"The lines are on low land by the side of the main road. There are in all 41 huts ; of these 10 are occupied by Act coolies and their dependents, 27 by free labourers, and 4 were unoccupied. The total number of Act-I coolies living in the lines is 15, and that living in the bungalow compound is 3, making in all 18 Act-I coolies. Total number of free labourers and dependents is 152. Of these 85 live in the lines and drink the Dikhu water ; the remainder live in villages about Nazira. There is also a 'new coolies' depôt in the station. This is kept open from November to July. The newly imported coolies stay here for a few days before going on to the tea gardens. The depôt huts are about three-fourths of a mile away from the lines, and the drinking water for this depôt is also obtained from the Dikhu river.

"*General remarks.*—The high death rate among the coolies working in the mills was chiefly due to epidemic of cholera, which raged in and around the villages about Nazira during the months of May, June, and July last. It is probable the disease was first brought into the station by the free labourers who live outside the Nazira station. The contaminated water of the Dikhu river also helped in the spread of the disease in the station.

"*Medical arrangements.*—Satisfactory. A qualified native doctor with a large supply of medicines is in charge of the station.

"*Recommendations.*—Tank filters should be arranged for the supply of good drinking water to the coolies. The present lines are not healthy. Soil low, damp, and waterlogged. Should be given up, and huts built on higher ground."

RAJABARI (*inspected on the 26th January 1891*)—

"The manager explains that the high mortality in this garden was due to cholera."

"The garden was inspected by the Deputy Surgeon General and myself. No cholera in garden since last inspection. The following sanitary arrangements are being carried out :

"New lines on high land are being built, and the old lines gradually pulled down.

"Materials are being collected for the sinking of three *pucca* wells with filter tanks during the present year.

"A new *pucca* hospital with a feeding place attached is also under consideration.

HATIJURI (*inspected on the 29th March 1891*)—

"Many deaths from cholera occurred here among the Act and non-Act coolies during April and May last. The first case occurred in an old coolie called "Heru," who was attacked with cholera on returning from the Titabar *hát*. He died the same night. It is probable the disease was imported into the garden from Titabar, where cholera was prevalent at the time. The disease multiplied owing to the bad water supply of the garden. There was no well or tank, and coolies drank the poisonous water of a dirty little stream called Dooli, which was close to the old lines.

"This is a new garden about three years old. It is still very jungly. The coolies are all seasoned healthy coolies. No new coolies are allowed to work here. The present lines are situated on a strip of high land surrounded by deep *jans* containing much stagnant water. The site is unhealthy. The huts are only temporary sheds constructed of *bazal* bamboo and thatched with *jangoo* leaves. They have low plinths. The old lines on the bank of the Dooli river, where cholera occurred, have already been abandoned. The water supply is now obtained from a small pipe well fitted with pumps. The pump did not act when I inspected the garden. The coolies, I am told by the head muharrir, often drink the Gotunga water, another stream passing through this garden.

"*Recommendations.*—

(*a*) The new lines are on an unhealthy site, and should be gradually given up. More substantial huts should be built in place of these temporary sheds.

(*b*) The water-supply of the garden should be improved. A deep *pucca* well fitted with force pumps and filtering tanks is required.

(*c*) A small dispensary with a proper supply of medicines required, and the dispensary should be in medical charge of a qualified compounder. At present the muharrir keeps a few bottles of old mixtures in his hut, and distributes these among the sick coolies."

WOKHA (*inspected on the 20th March 1891*)—

"A large number of the deaths in the garden was due to dysentery and cholera. The sanitary condition of the garden and its water-supply were very unsatisfactory during my inspection.

"The lines were dirty ; the huts ricketty, damp, and on low plinths. The surface drains were filled up with all sorts of rubbish.

"Water supply obtained from the Gorungjan or river, very liable to sewage contamination.

"*Recommendations.*—1. New lines on a new site to be built as soon as possible.
"2. Two deep *pucca* wells should also be sunk soon."

OATING (*inspected on the 20th March 1891*)—

"The garden contains 202 Act coolies (91 males and 111 females), also 15 non-Act coolies (8 males and 7 females) and a few children and dependents.

"During 1890 there were 11 deaths, all among the Act coolies. The chief causes of deaths were bowel complaints (diarrhœa and dysentery). There were two deaths since beginning of this year, one from debility and one from cholera.

"The following sanitary defects were noticed during my inspection:

"1. *Lines.*—On low plinths generally overcrowded, drains kept dirty.

"2. *Water-supply sources*—

(*a*) One *pucca* well, water muddy.
(*b*) Silpukuri spring water, 400 yards from the lines and close to the manager's bungalow, used by the manager only.
(*c*) A tank unprotected, water dirty, close to the lines, much used by the coolies.

"*Food supply.*—Appears satisfactory.

"*Recommendations.*—1. The water supply of the garden must be improved, a masonry filter tank fitted with taps should be attached to the *pucca* well. The tank near the lines should be properly fenced in and cleaned, and its water should be used only for bathing purposes and for washing pots and pans by the coolies.

"2. The plinths of the huts should be raised and overcrowding prevented by pulling down a few huts here and there. The drains should be kept clean."

DEERING (*date of inspection not given*)—

"The death rate on this garden in 1889 was among Act coolies 45·5 per cent., among non-Act coolies 10·82 per cent. The death rate among Act coolies in 1890 was 25·99. In both years the high percentage was due to cholera. Besides cholera there were a few cases of dysentery. Cholera was imported into the garden from neighbouring villages. The water-supply has hitherto been the Deering stream, a small stream running down from the hills. Since the last inspection a well is being sunk. The water will be pumped up into a masonry reservoir with filters and cocks to draw off the water. The Committee is of opinion that this will afford a sufficient and proper supply of drinking water.

"There is a separate hospital with accommodation for in-patients and a sufficient supply of medicines. The Committee is of opinion that nothing further is required in this direction. There is a duly qualified native doctor. The lines are not satisfactory. In the opinion of the Committee the plinths of the huts should be higher; a regular system of drainage should be substituted for the present drains; cowsheds should be built away from the lines; and as many houses as possible be removed to a high ridge of ground at a slight distance from the present site. The coolies were mustered. The sick list to-day was one child suffering from fever. Only one case of incipient *beri-beri* detected among the coolies. The labour force was on the whole very healthy.

"The Committee is pleased to remark that there has been a change of management, and the garden is now under a European manager instead of, as previously, a native muharrir.

"As regards importation of coolies, the Committee is of opinion that there is no reason to declare the garden unfit for the residence of new coolies, provided that until the effect of improvements suggested above is seen, such coolies should be located in new huts on a site away from the present lines."

HATIKULI (*date of inspection not given*)—

"The death rate on this garden has been high among Act coolies principally, and the chief cause of the high mortality has been cholera. At the last inspection it was noticed that out of 48 deaths no less than 42 were from cholera.

"The number of deaths and percentage of mortality among Act coolies has been in—

1888	...	...	...	14 deaths,	13·38	per cent.
1889	...	...	...	20 „	10·58	„
1890	...	...	...	43 „	21·21	„

"The sanitary improvements suggested by the Civil Surgeon at his last inspection have either been fully carried out or are on the point of completion, with the result that there is now a good hospital and a properly qualified native doctor. A hill stream has been embanked, and water is being forced up into a masonry filter by means of a hydraulic ram. The filter is fitted with cocks for drawing the water. It will be in work after a few days; all is completed except the filter. The lines are on high ground with natural drainage. The Committee is of opinion that the management has done all that is necessary, with the exception of some slight improvements to the lines, which the manager can be left to carry out, and there is no necessity to restrict the importation of labour to this garden. The Committee would, however, suggest that in the case of any new coolies who are anæmic in appearance, the hotel system might be introduced advantageously by the manager."

HAÓTOLY (*inspected on the 19th March 1891*)—

"*Cholera.*—Two sporadic cases occurred in April; both died. There was a lull for a month or six weeks. Then the disease broke out in a virulent form about the end of May, and lasted till the end of June. The cause of the outbreak was scarcity of drinking water in the garden. The tube wells failed in their supply, and the coolies had to drink the Dhansiri water. Total deaths 28, Act 18 and non-Act 10. There was cholera at the time in the villages around and in Golághát.

"*Sanitary arrangements*—(*a*) *Lines.*—Good. Some of the old lines are being vacated and huts being built on the highest piece of land in the garden.

"*Drainage.*—Satisfactory.

"(*b*) *Water supply.*—Requires improvement. As the tube wells are liable dry up in a season of drought and as the newly excavated tank will be the chief source of water supply in the garden, I would recommend that the tank should be properly fenced in and a masonry filter fitted with taps should be attached to it.

"*Food supply.*—Satisfactory."

DHANSIRI (*inspected on the 21st March 1891*)—

"*Cholera in 1890.*—When the disease broke out in March, the *pucca* well was not finished and the coolies were drinking the Dhansiri water. The well was completed in May, and cholera gradually stopped in the garden. Cholera was present in the villages and also in the Oating villages of the Dhansiri river at the time.

"*Sanitary arrangements.*—(*a*) *Lines.*—Clean, drainage fairly satisfactory. Some of the huts have low plinths. The manager intends to build *kutcha-pucca* houses on high plinths next year.

"(*b*) A new *pucca* deep well supplies the lines, the water being laid on in pipes.

"*General health.*—Fairly good. There are some cases of *anchylostomiasis* among the coolies.

"*Food supply.*—The Kaiya shops were inspected. The food stuffs sold to the coolies appeared to be of good quality."

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

47. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Sadr	Khanikar	139	141	1	10	11	7·1	70·9	78·9
	Nahartoli	201	191	9	10	19	44·7	52·3	97·0
	Hukanguri	770	807	43	44	87	55·8	49·0	104·8
	Lepetkatta	120	114	4	7	11	33·3	61·4	94·7
	Chabua	434	438	16	16	32	36·8	36·5	73·3
	Tiphuk	424	428	14	25	39	33·0	58·4	91·4
	Samdang	285	293	15	23	38	52·6	78·5	131·1
	Balijan Tea Company ..	365	344	9	17	26	24·6	49·4	74·0
North Lakhimpur	Panitola	562	613	26	15	41	46·2	24·4	70·6
	Hulmari	311	357	13	12	25	41·8	33·6	75·4
	Total	3,611	3,816	150	179	329	41·5	46·9	88·4

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Khanikar	1	4	1	..	5	..	11
	Nahartoli	1	4	1	1	5	7	19
	Hukanguri	48	19	7	..	..	13	87
	Lepetkatta	2	..	1	1	3	4	11
	Chabua	6	11	4	..	1	10	32
	Tiphuk	2	8	..	..	23	6	39
	Samdang	3	22	3	..	6	4	38
	Balijan Tea Company	8	5	..	3	1	9	26
North Lakhimpur	Panitola	6	8	3	..	..	24	41
	Hulmari	8	7	1	1	..	8	25
	Total	85	88	21	6	44	85	329

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half year.	Second half year.	First half year.	Second half year.	Total.	First half year.	Second half year.	Annual.
Sadr	Oaklands	179	483	2	32	34	11·1	66·2	77·3
	Mesnijan	748	755	16	52	68	21·3	68·8	90·1
	Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal-mines.	2,378	2,356	112	211	323	47·0	89·5	136·5
North Lakhimpur ..	Rungliting	59	133	6	5	11	37·7	37·5	75·2
	Hatiali	172	214	4	14	18	23·2	65·4	88·6
		3,636	3,941	140	314	454	38·5	30·2	118·7

Causes of deaths.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	Oaklands	3	6	3	3	5	14	34
	Mesaijan	3	42	6	..	10	7	68
	Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal-mines..	1	60	8	..	24	230	323
North Lakhimpur	Rungliting	1	1	2	..	2	5	11
	Hatiali	5	4	8	..	..	1	18
	Total	13	113	27	3	41	257	454

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population only.

As regards the gardens included in the above lists, the Deputy Commissioner writes—

"There were only 15 gardens on the black list, against 27 of the previous year, and if the death rate is struck on the total population in all these 15 cases, only 5 will show a rate of mortality above 7 per cent. From the list it will be seen that the Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal-mines have the highest death rate among Act coolies (17·75 per cent.), Samdang comes next with 13·11 per cent., then Hukanguri with 10·48 per cent., and Mesaijan 9·70 per cent.

"A Committee was held during the year on the Samdang tea garden. The Civil Surgeon has been very active in inspecting, and inspected all the sadr gardens. One garden in North Lakhimpur has yet to be inspected. Of the 15 unhealthy gardens, Chabua, Tiphuk, and Rungliting had a death rate among Act coolies over 7 per cent. in 1889; Hukanguri, Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal-mines, and Mesaijan had a death rate above 7 per cent. among Act coolies continually since 1886; Samdang had been regularly in the black list since 1887; while Balijan, Khanikar, and Nahartoli had a death rate among Act coolies over 7 per cent. regularly since 1888."

With the exception of Hulmari, all the unhealthy gardens were inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and the following remarks are extracted from his reports:

KHANIKAR (*date of inspection not given*)—

"During the year under report *beri-beri* and dysentery gave rise to the largest share of the mortality on this estate. Of the causation of *beri-beri* it would be as yet premature to speak; with reference to its prevention, a good deal has been and is being done by the manager. Two new ring line wells have recently been sunk and two brick line wells are in process of construction, those already finished being well and sufficiently guarded from contamination by Portland cement.

"The question of conservancy is in this country, and more specially so among tea garden coolies, extremely difficult to deal with, but none the less on that account calling for serious attention. The latrine system is extremely primitive and objectionable, and it is highly improbable that *beri-beri* will ever be stamped out until an efficient latrine system is established in every affected area.

"The nearest *hát* where fresh provision can be purchased is a very long distance, and, in the opinion of the writer, the establishment of weekly *hát* on or near the estate would tend not a little to an improved healthiness of coolies.

NAHARTOLI (*inspected on the 21st January 1891*)—

"This garden was inspected on the 11th of August 1890 by Assistant Surgeon Famiz Uddin Ahamed, on which occasion 57 deaths amounting to some 27·72 per cent. among Act coolies were reported by the inspecting officer. This was attributed to the fact that a very large number of new coolies were imported during the period under report. A large proportion of these, already debilitated by privation and want before emigration and unacclimatized to the Assam climate, succumbed to change of climate and the malarial influences by which they were surrounded on their arrival in Assam. Of the 57 recorded deaths, 19 are due to dysentery, 15 to anæmia, or probably, more correctly speaking, to *beri-beri*, 7 diarrhœa, 4 dropsy, most probably resulting from malarial complications. It is noteworthy that amongst the above no child or infant death is recorded. This enormous death rate is most probably due in a large measure to the fact that a sufficient and suitable food supply was not provided for the immigrants on their arrival in Assam.

"Since the above inspection (11th August 1890) up to date (21st January 1891) of the Civil Surgeon's inspection the death rate has been extremely low, *viz.*, Act 3·27, non-Act 0·29, this no doubt arising from the fact that the survivors have become acclimatized and accustomed to the work, and enabled to provide themselves with many additions to their bare allowance of rice.

"The sanitary condition of the garden leaves little to be desired. The accommodation for the coolies in the lines is excellent. Drainage is good. The water supply is derived from wells, which are carefully preserved from contamination by impurities. Almost all the houses have small vegetable gardens attached."

HUKANGURI (*inspected by the Civil Surgeon on the 26th January 1891*)—

"This special inspection of the Hukanguri garden was ordered in consequence of the high death rate reported by Mr. McCabe on the occasion of his inspection on 22nd July 1890. On that occasion out of 40 deaths reported, 23 were due to cholera, 9 to chronic dysentery, 5 to remittent fever, and 3 to all other causes.

"During the period that elapsed between Mr. McCabe's inspection and the present, 51 deaths have occurred, out of which 25 are due to cholera, 11 to sloughing sore locally known as Nága sore, 6 to fever, 3 to dysentery, 3 to *beri-beri*, and 3 to other causes. From this it will be seen that cholera is alone accountable for more than 50 per cent. of the deaths on this garden. What to attribute this large cholera death rate to would be impossible for me to say. The manager and the medical officer thought that the stiff clay subsoil, on which one section of the line rested, was

responsible, and accordingly all the lines which were thus situated were removed to higher ground on a sandy subsoil.

"Two large new wells are being dug, the old wells have been covered in, fitted with pumps and tanks with taps, from which alone water can be drawn, so that contamination of the water-supply is practically impossible. The management admit that the labour force on the garden was not equal to the area under cultivation, so that overwork was the rule; and this doubtless acted detrimentally on the health of the coolies in many ways, *i.e.*, excessive bodily fatigue, insufficient time for cooking, procuring vegetables."

In accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioner, a Committee will be held on this garden:

LEPETKATTA *(date of inspection not given)*—

"The present medical inspection of this garden was ordered in consequence of the high mortality brought to light by Mr. Lea in his inspection report of the 21st February 1890. But for the period intervening between that inspection and present one, the death rate has much increased, being as high as 10 per cent., the chief diseases being bowel-complaints, anæmia, and dropsy, both probably due to the same originating cause in *beri-beri*. The situation of the lines is bad, being situated on the edge of an extensive swamp. The coolies' huts are in a very ruinous condition, and, judging by their present appearance, cannot in my opinion have been watertight throughout the rains."

CHABUA *(inspected on the 18th February 1891)*—

"This is a very large garden, having over a thousand labourers actually at work on the day of inspection, and having 950 acres of tea under cultivation. There were 56 deaths reported since the date of last inspection, *i.e.*, 7th April 1890; of these, 23 were due to dysentery. The lines and their surroundings were the best that I have seen, far better than the lines of a native infantry regiment. There are two wells to each row of lines, one at either end. The wells themselves are lined with brick and cement, the surface all round being *pucca*, thus rendering any pollution of the well-water impossible. There is a most elaborate system of deep drainage in and about the lines, the main outlet drain being over a mile in length, communicating with Sessa river. On this estate it is almost impossible to find any sanitary shortcoming whatever. But there remains the one drawback, which is almost common to all Assam gardens, more especially to large ones, that coolie population receive far too little antiscorbutic food; and I consider the large death from dysentery to be mainly due to this cause."

TIPHUK *(inspected on the 21st March 1891)*—

"On this garden the labour force is evidently unequal to requirements, and I am of opinion that much of the sickness and mortality now prevalent is due to this cause. *Beri-beri* is very prevalent; quite a third of the adult males are more or less affected. Among the women and children the disease is not nearly so prevalent. This condition of things is doubtless mainly owing to the entire absence of any attempt at conservancy coupled with the filthy and ill-drained condition of the lines. Except on *hât* days, no vegetables are obtainable, and as far as I can learn, during the rains very few vegetables indeed are even at the *hâts* obtainable. In connection with this point it is noteworthy that the principal portion of the death rate occurs at this season. Dr. Norvell visits twice a week. I am of opinion that in the present condition of sickness and mortality on this garden more frequent visits from Dr. Norvell are an absolute necessity, more especially as the so-called resident native doctor possesses no sort of qualification whatever."

SAMDANG *(inspected on the 20th March 1891)*—

"The lines, huts, and water-supply on this garden are all good. The number of sick is small. There are two good wells now in use, and a third is in course of construction.

"The labour supply is evidently inadequate. More than half the deaths are due to dysentery.

"This garden is visited once a week by Dr. Norvell. I am of opinion that, considering the fact that the resident native doctor possesses no sort of qualifications, and the high rate of sickness and mortality, more frequent visits are an absolute necessity."

BALIJAN *(inspected on the 25th March 1891)*—

"The death rate in this garden is very little above 7 per cent., the principal death rate being among new arrivals. The situation is doubtless extremely unhealthy, as the garden is only a clearing in dense forest."

PANITOLA *(inspected on the 21st February 1891)*—

"On this garden, as on all others that I have up to the present visited, bowel-complaints, mainly dysentery, have been the chief factor in the high death rate which prevailed during the past year. In connection with this high death rate from dysentery, it would be well to consider whether or not the dysentery was not of scorbutic origin. On this garden there was a coolie population of considerably over thousand souls, and the inspecting officer was struck by the almost entire absence of green food in the coolie dietary. The nearest *hât* is miles way. These thousand souls ought, for the preservation of health, have at least 4 chataks of vegetables per individual per day. This would amount to over six maunds per day for the whole. I hardly think I am exaggerating when I say that the estate did not produce 6 chataks of vegetables per day. I consider that this death rate from dysentery will never be stopped till the coolies are provided with a proper antiscorbutic dietary. The lines themselves are in fair condition. The wells are apparently good, but all the pumps fixed therein are out of order, and undoubtedly are not worked for months."

As regards the Hulmari garden, the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts wrote—

"The Civil Surgeon, having been in charge of the military as well as the civil duties at Dibrugarh, has been unable to pay the visit he had intended to North Lakhimpur in March. The Assistant Commis-

sioner, North Lakhimpur, inspected the remaining unhealthy garden, Hulmari, on the 13th May 1891, and he writes—

"'The water in the covered tank does not look particularly clear, and as there is a lot of dysentery, I took a bottle of the water for analysis. Dr. Smith however thinks the coolies drink bad water from Hulmari *bhil*. The lines look very nice just now, but Dr. Smith says that in high floods the *bhil* water floods the drains in the lines, and he is trying to have the situation of the line altered. The number of fractional *haziris* is very large. Explanation given is that it includes sick fractions and new batch of bad coolies. The coolies seemed to be able enough to work.'

"The manager of this garden was tried for causing the death of a coolie in March 1890, and the garden requires looking after."

OAKLANDS (*inspected on the 20th February 1891*)—

"The death rate in this estate is only barely above 7 per cent. Of 11 deaths reported, 3 are returned as due to general debility and 3 to *anchylostomiasis*. These are all undoubtedly attributable to a common cause, *i.e.*, *beri-beri*. The lines are in good order. The drainage is good and efficient, though the country is very low-lying, and frequently become submerged in the rainy season."

MESAIJAN (*inspected on the 19th March 1891*)—

"The lines and drainage on this garden are in very good condition. The water-supply is however very insufficient. There are three wells: one, owing to a suicide having been committed therein, is not used; another is under repair; the third, which is at present the only one used, has hardly 12 inches of water in it, an amount entirely unequal to the requirements of the large number of coolies quartered in these lines. There are no vegetable gardens, and, considering the distance (3 miles) of the nearest *hât*, fresh vegetables are practically unobtainable. This circumstance, coupled with the extremely high death rate (41 since 10th April 1890) from dysentery, points to the conclusion that all these deaths have resulted from scorbutic dysentery. Many of these lines would probably have been saved by a proper diet containing an adequate supply of green vegetables.

"On a large garden (on the Sadiya road) noted for the healthiness of its labour staff, a gratuitous issue of soaked gram is made to such coolies as apply for it each morning before going out to work. Another garden in the neighbourhood (Ajunni) is used for this purpose. Thirty-two sick attended at hospital on the morning of my inspection. Dr. Norvell visits once a week. I am of opinion, considering the extremely high rate of sickness and mortality, more frequent visits ought be arranged for."

Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal-mines.

The subject of the serious mortality which occurred amongst the labour force employed in the coal-mines of the Assam Railway and Trading Company is being separately considered by the Chief Commissioner, and the necessary orders will be issued in due course. The mines were inspected by the Commissioner and Civil Surgeon on the 9th March 1891, and the following remarks were recorded by the latter officer on that portion of the mines which is at Ledo and Tikak respectively:

"*Ledo.*—This is apparently a most healthy spot. The water no doubt contains a good deal of iron, but otherwise from a sanitary point of view there is little fault to find in the situation of the lines in which the colliery workpeople live. The settlement is situated in a small clearance in a valley between two spurs of the Nága Hills, the country round being covered with dense forest. The diseases which cause the very high mortality are bowel-complaints, more especially dysentery, the larger portion of the deaths occurring among newly-arrived, and consequently unacclimatized, coolies. The sanitary measures to be advised are to see that each coolie takes before going to work a meal, in a word, to take care that the workman does not go to his work fasting, and that during the midday recess hour each workman is provided with a decent meal. This is done in every jail in India for the lowest stratum of the community, and certainly should, in my opinion, be done for the workpeople by all employers of labour. The thing at first may seem very difficult, but I am convinced that adoption of a few simple measures to obviate the evil pointed out would result in an enormous saving to the company. Nothing is so expensive as sickness. The lack of vegetables is very noteworthy. In this respect the cold weather may well be left to look after itself; it is during the rains, when the death rate is at its highest, that this want is most felt."

"*Tikak.*—Beyond situation and water-supply, all that has been said of Ledo applies equally well to Tikak. The settlement is situated on an extremely steep hillside about 500 feet above level of the surrounding country. Most perfect natural drainage exists. Water-supply is a mountain stream, which has been bunded up, and conveyed by pipes all over the lines. The water is decidedly good. Suggested sanitary improvement same as Ledo."

The Commissioner wrote as follows:

"I noticed there is no quarantine arrangement at the collieries. I have directed that new arrivals should be kept some time in quarantine.

"There can be no excuse for want of vegetables in the cold season. But in the months July to October they are no doubt difficult to obtain. I found the coolies eating a *saq* brought in by Nágas, a very poor *sag*, a kind of wild mustard. They also greedily consume *fungi*, which the Nágas sell them. Wild *kachu* leaves are also in demand.

"Hotels have been started both at Ledo and Tikak. The charge is 2 annas per diem for their meals. The coolies are allowed to eat as much as they like, and to take their meals away at their own houses if they prefer it. The food is excellent. The cost to the company is about 4 annas per diem, out of which 2 annas is recovered. At Tikak some 80 persons out of 532 were feeding at or from the hotel; at Ledo 157 out of 1,200 the day I was there. Children are fed free of charge. Married people do not come much to the hotels. If one is in hospital, the other comes.

"Task work is not enforced as on tea gardens. A gang has to turn out a certain number of tubs of coal per diem. Wages are paid not with reference to what each workman turns out, but with reference to his supposed capacity. New coolies are paid Rs. 7-8 and Rs. 8, woman Rs. 7 and Rs. 8, old coolies Rs. 10 and 12.

"The water-supply is good at Tikak, but at Ledo the wells are impregnated with iron. The company is making a tunnel into the mountain at Ledo, and expect to tap a spring of good water. In this way good water should be supplied to the men when at work in the mines.

"The hospital arrangements at Margherita are excellent. But Margherita is some distance from Tikak and Ledo. There are outdoor dispensaries at these places.

"Prices are—

Chawal (new Bengal)	...	...	...	...	10 seers per rupee.
Dal (*Arahar*)	...	...	...	...	2 annas per seer.
„ (*Musuri*)	...	...	...	...	2 „ 1 pice per seer.
Onions ...	...	...	...	...	3 „ per seer.
Mustard oil ...	...	...	...	...	8 „ „

"In two directions I noticed great improvement since I last visited the collieries.

"(*a*) *Milk-supply.*—Cattle do very well at the collieries. There is a sort of bamboo grass, which suits them admirably. As the jungle is cleared, this bamboo grass springs up.

"(*b*) *Jungle-clearing.*—About this there has been much correspondence, and for some years I was unsuccessful in my efforts to get the jungle cleared. The difficulty has of late years been removed. The whole place has a much more open and healthy appearance than it had when I last visited it in 1887.

"I took with me to the collieries one of the most experienced tea-planters in Assam, for many years Superintendent of the Assam Tea Company, with a view to obtaining hints regarding the management of the coolies in this isolated place. This gentleman found the coolies well cared for and in fairly good case. They did not appear to him to be overworked.

'As the Chief Commissioner knows, the Civil Surgeon is also medical officer to the company. I and the Deputy Commissioner have therefore been able to exercise careful supervision through the Civil Surgeon, who visited the collieries once a fortnight. On my visitations of Dibrugarh, I have always consulted the Civil Surgeon as to the condition of the coolies at the company's collieries. It was in September that I first learned from the Civil Surgeon how unhealthy they had become. Unfortunately, Mr. McCabe carried off Dr. Tamizuddin's inspection memorandum, and it only came to hand on 3rd November 1890. And then, as I have explained, it was not put up to me. I think that the arrangement that the Civil Surgeon should also be medical officer of the company was a good one, and that in the past it has enabled us to look after the coolies at the collieries much better than we otherwise could have done. The company have now appointed a special European medical officer at the collieries, and the Civil Surgeon's functions as medical officer to the company, I presume, cease. In that case the Civil Surgeon's fortnightly visits are suspended. I shall report further on the subject later on.

"I have often expressed an opinion that only gardens in healthy situations where supplies are ample should be allowed the benefits of a Penal Contract Act, and I was very unwilling to allow a penal contract at these collieries. Had I been consulted in the matter, I should probably have recommended that they should be worked with free labour. The difficulty in that case would be that, though nominally free, the labourer would really have been less free than he is under a penal contract. When once he has been induced to go to this isolated spot, he is absolutely in the hands of his employer. It is better perhaps that we should maintain the Act and the power of inspection which it affords us. On the other hand, we cannot continue to support a company in operations which result in the consumption of labour at the rate of 17·75 per cent. per annum. On the whole, I am inclined to recommend the Chief Commissioner to take action under section 129 of the Act. Perhaps he would be justified in postponing the step until the result of this year's working is known."

RANGLITING (*inspected on the 17th February 1891*)—

"This is a very small garden, and, on the whole, a very healthy one. The death rate during the period under report has been high from what may be considered as purely accidental causes. Two deaths on the garden were of epileptics, who had fallen into fire during a fit, and died of the injuries then received, while two were females, who had died of puerperal fever, which appeared to have been extremely prevalent in that portion of the district during May 1890."

HATIALI (*inspected on the 19th February 1891*)—

"This garden is a clearing in dense forest. The number of coolies kept upon the place is small. Since the last inspection (14th July 1890), 15 deaths returned having occurred with an average strength present of about 130. Of these deaths, 8 are returned as having been due to debility (no doubt they were really cases of *beri-beri*, which the medical officer on the garden had failed to diagnose); 4 due to dysentery. The garden is a very new one. All the land now occupied by tea has been recently reclaimed from the forest. The doctor Babu on the estate has no sort of medical qualifications, and knows little about his business. I consider a properly-qualified Hospital Assistant ought to be stationed upon this garden. I saw three cases of undoubted *beri-beri* in the attendance of the garden dispensary on the day of my inspection. They are all classed by medical officer as due to other diseases."

General remarks on unhealthy gardens.

48. In the foregoing paragraphs the Chief Commissioner has confined himself to giving extracts from the reports regarding gardens on the unhealthy list, but he desires again to call the attention of all officers concerned to the remarks made in paragraph 48 of last year's report, and to the necessity for closely adhering to the orders of the Government of India quoted

in paragraph 40 of this report. In the case of all gardens appearing on the unhealthy list, Deputy Commissioners should invariably, when submitting the Civil Surgeon's reports, explain what action they propose to take in regard to the assembling of Committees, and if the circumstances are not such as to render a Committee necessary, they should be careful to see that the recommendations made are carried into effect within a reasonable time. Inspections are obviously useless unless steps are taken to see that effect is given to the recommendations made by the inspecting officer.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns.

49. The number of gardens shown in the inspection registers has increased from 896 to 907, and the number submitting returns from 762 to 772. In Cachar managers were again backward in submitting returns, the last amended return having been received by the Deputy Commissioner as late as the 22nd March 1891, but no prosecutions were undertaken. In Sylhet, one manager was prosecuted for non-submission of returns during the year under report.

Classification of gardens according to the labourers employed and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

50. The following statement shows the number of gardens, classified district by district, according to the number of labourers employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number visited by inspecting officers :

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	146	35	..	6	187	70	42	2	1	115	10	5	44	30	89	76	4	2	7	89
„ sending returns 50 and 51.	146	35	..	..	181	70	42	2	..	114	10	5	3	..	18	76	4	2	..	82
„ inspected once ..	128	35	..	..	163	67	39	1	..	107	9	5	..	..	14	62	4	..	..	66
„ „ twice ..	18	..	..	..	18	3	2	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	1	6	..	..	..	6
„ „ thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Total number inspected ..	146	35	..	..	181	70	41	1	..	112	10	5	..	..	15	69	4	..	..	73
Total „ „ 1889 ..	131	20	..	..	151	68	34	1	..	103	9	4	1	..	14	73	4	..	..	77

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	33	15	8	5	61	163	13	4	35	215	133	4	4	10	151	631	118	64	94	907
„ sending returns 50 and 51.	33	15	8	..	56	163	13	4	..	180	133	4	4	..	141	631	118	23	..	772
„ inspected once ..	32	15	..	..	47	126	13	..	..	139	124	4	4	..	132	548	115	5	..	668
„ „ twice ..	5	1	..	..	6	31	..	..	..	31	9	..	..	..	9	73	3	..	..	76
„ „ thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	4
Total number inspected ..	37	16	..	..	53	160	13	..	..	173	133	4	4	..	141	625	118	5	..	748
„ „ „ 1889 ..	34	14	..	..	48	160	10	..	..	170	133	4	4	..	141	608	90	6	..	704

The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that inspection work shows an improvement, 748 gardens having been inspected, against 704 in the preceding year. Moreover, 76 gardens were inspected twice and four gardens three times, against 53 and 3 respectively during 1889. In Cachar all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected, the bulk of the work having been performed by Mr. Anderson, the late Deputy Commissioner, who carried out no less than 40 inspections, the Civil Surgeon, the Assistant Commissioner, and an officer (Mr. Pittar) whom it was found necessary to depute specially for this purpose in view of the exceptional circumstances which prevailed in the district, and the necessity for completing inspection work by the date prescribed on account of the census (30th September 1890). In Sylhet also all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected. Of the three gardens left uninspected, two were not liable to inspection,

two were separated. Similarly, in Kámrúp all the gardens employing Act labour or non-Act labour in excess of 50 persons were inspected by the Deputy Commissioner. In Darrang seven estates employing Act labour remained uninspected, and the Chief Commissioner is not satisfied with the reason given for the non-inspection of these gardens, namely, pressure of work. In this district moreover the Deputy Commissioner failed to perform a sufficient portion of the work, having inspected only 15 gardens out of 73. Of the 48 gardens liable to inspection in the Nowgong district, 47 were inspected during the year, and the remaining garden was inspected in January of the current year. In this district the Deputy Commissioner took his full share of the work, having carried out 22 out of 53 inspections. The remaining inspections were performed by the Civil Surgeon. It is satisfactory to notice that in the Nowgong district the practice is to muster the Act labourers on occasions of inspection. In Sibságar all the gardens employing Act labour were inspected during the year, except three new gardens in the Jorhát subdivision, as to which the Deputy Commissioner explains that the subdivisional officer was not aware of the opening of these gardens until he received returns from the managers after the close of the year. Of the total number of inspections performed, the Deputy Commissioner undertook only 12, which is not an adequate number. In this district, as in Cachar, it was necessary to place an officer on special duty for the purpose of completing the work by the prescribed date. The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that the Civil Surgeon (Dr. Banerji) reports that in the case of all the gardens inspected by him the coolies were mustered. In the Lakhimpur district all gardens were inspected, but the Chief Commissioner is not satisfied that the Deputy Commissioner undertook a fair share of the work, having carried out 24 inspections only out of 141. On the whole, therefore, the outturn of inspection throughout the Province was good, though it is open to doubt whether in all cases a sufficient share of the work was undertaken by the Deputy Commissioners.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

51. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that on the whole the relations between employers and labourers are satisfactory, and that nearly all managers understand that it is to their interest to treat coolies well. In one case a manager was fined for inflicting a cut or two with a cane on an imported coolie, who was found endeavouring to take away two coolies born and bred on the garden. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet writes—

"The relations between the managers and their coolies continue to be satisfactory. No serious complaints were brought to notice during the year. I am inclined to think that coolies often bring complaints of detention beyond the agreement as a means of ascertaining whether their agreements have expired or not.

"The managers do not encourage coolies to apply for permission to leave the garden. The coolie is afraid to ask the manager about the matter, but comes to court. At all events, the explanations given by the managers in reply to these complaints have been satisfactory, and no coolies have disputed the manager's explanation.

"Two complaints of ordinary petty assault were laid before the subdivisional officer, Karimganj, but one was dismissed after enquiry under section 202 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and in the other the complainant thought better of it and could not proceed with the case. In one case five coolies, three women, and two men were convicted of assaulting the manager, and were sentenced to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment. This case appears to have arisen in some quite inexplicable way out of a disturbance which took place on a neighbouring garden."

No complaints on the part of labourers against employers were brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner during the year. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang reports as follows :

"The relations between employers and labourers were, I am told, generally satisfactory. The following are the facts of noticeable offences committed by the garden coolies during the year under report :

"On the 15th March 1890, in the afternoon, the coolies of the Balipara-garden were paid their wages for the month of February 1890. The Kacharis, the Bengali coolie women and children, and half the Bengali male coolies had been paid when an uproar arose. The Bengali coolies asserted that they had received less pay than they earned during the month. The manager (Mr. C. Whyte), who had assumed charge of the garden only a couple of months before, heard the noise, and shortly after received the message from the *kerani*, who paid the coolies with the assistance of the garden jemadár, to the effect that the coolies were troublesome. The complainant (Mr. Whyte) at once went to the office, but as he passed through the crowd of coolies, he was struck on the face, his hat was knocked off, and his stick was wrested from his hand. The matter was reported to the police, who sent up seven men for trial under section 147, Indian Penal Code. All of these were convicted and sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment each by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Babu Madhub Chandra Bardaloi.

"The *paniwalla* of the manager of the Briardole tea estate was convicted of setting fire to his master's bungalow. He was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

"A coolie at Hanchara was convicted of stealing Rs. 85-10 from a sardár on the garden. He was sentenced to be imprisoned for a year under section 457, Indian Penal Code.

"Six coolies of the Ghogra tea garden (now closed) were sent up on a charge of rioting. It was admitted that they had assaulted and wrongfully confined the garden Babu. They said that they had acted in defence of a woman, whom one of their member claimed to be his sister, while another said that he had tried to induce her to be his mistress. The woman herself denied any relationship of any sort to the accused person. These were all convicted by me under section 458, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

"Some coolies were sent to cash a draft for Rs. 600 at Tezpur. When the money arrived at the garden, Rs. 53 were short. The suspicious conduct of one of the men led to his prosecution. He was convicted (chiefly on circumstantial evidence) under sections 407-409 of the Penal Code, but was released on appeal.

"One coolie at Ghogra was convicted under section 241, Indian Penal Code, having tried to pass a pice coated with quicksilver."

In Nowgong the Deputy Commissioner describes the following case, which occurred on the Silghat garden:

"The manager of the garden, Mr. H. L. Smith, on going to inspect the outdoor work on the morning of the 30th September 1890, was set upon and somewhat severely handled by about 40 coolies, who at the trial alleged that the manager had assaulted a coolie woman for disobedience of orders, and that this led to their attack upon him. The attack on Mr. Smith being admitted by the 14 accused sent up by the police for trial, they were convicted by me and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment of nine months each, but on appeal the sentence on three of the accused was upheld, and that on the rest reduced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

"A cross case was brought by the woman above referred to against Mr. H. L. Smith for having beaten her severely with a cane in the open tea garden and in presence of all the other coolies working in that part of the garden. I heard this case also myself on the spot at Silghat, but found that the contradiction and discrepancies in the evidence adduced by the complainant were such as to necessitate the dismissal of the case and the acquittal of Mr. Smith. In point of fact, the very nature of the alleged brutal assault on the woman raised the strongest doubt as to the possibility of its truth. But the evidence adduced settled the question definitely."

The other cases mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner are of a petty description, and have no direct bearing on the relations between employers and labourers. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports as follows:

"In 1889 there were six cases of assault brought by labourers against managers. In 1890 there were also six cases. Of these, only one was important. The manager of Cherideo and five others were summoned for causing hurt to a coolie, the reason alleged being that the coolie allowed a certain woman to go and live in his house. The beating was evidently a very severe one. Application was made to compromise the case, which the magistrate most reluctantly had to allow, as the case did not come under either section 325 or 147, Indian Penal Code. The complaint alleged that five men had held the coolie with his face against a ladder, while the manager administered a severe flogging.

"In three cases the manager took the law into his own hands, and whipped coolies for repeated drunkenness. All cases referred to the same occasion. Two cases only were prosecuted, and the manager was fined Rs. 15 in each. The whipping had been slight in all the cases. The two remaining cases were of a petty nature, and were compromised.

"The relations between employers and labourers are better shown by the charges brought by managers. I have no doubt coolies sometimes submit to a slight chastisement in preference to being put into court, but a disturbance or rising on the part of the coolies generally indicates mismanagement or a want of touch between the employer and labourers. The following is a brief description of cases brought by managers:

"On the Tyroon garden there was a quarrel leading up to a scuffle between the manager and the head muharrir. The latter went and fetched some coolies, who menaced the manager, and would no doubt have assaulted him if he had not remained inside the bungalow. All the accused were sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment under section 143, Indian Penal Code, but the High Court reduced the sentence passed on the muharrir to two months. The explanation of this disturbance was that the manager was new, and the garden generally had been allowed to get out of hand, owing to the ill-health of the previous manager, since deceased.

"In another case about six coolies of the Duklengia garden went to the manager's bungalow, armed with sticks, hoes, &c., ostensibly to ask for leave, but in reality to irritate the manager into bringing about a riot. They were sentenced to three weeks' rigorous imprisonment under section 143, Indian Penal Code.

"In one case a coolie was sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment under section 504, Indian Penal Code, for uttering abuse and trying to provoke the manager to a breach of the peace, because the latter had seen him beating his wife, and had scolded him for it. The manager was ill at the time, but the sentence seems to have been rather severe.

"There was a case on the Rangajan tea estate, in which a line chaukidár was severely handled by some coolies in consequence of a quarrel between him and a stoker about absence without leave. The manager brought the complaint, but does not seem to have been in any way directly responsible for the disturbance.

"Of the above cases, the first two show unsatisfactory relations between managers and coolies, but in the first case the explanation is satisfactory.

"In the Rangajan case there may have been a want of touch between the manager and the coolies, but as the manager has been a long time in tea, it is more probable that the stoker was a man of violent temper, and that the quarrel was a sudden one, and not the result of a smouldering discontent; the record of the case at least points to this."

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes—

"Relations between employers and labourers have been generally satisfactory. The following cases, which came before the courts, may be noticed :

"The manager of a garden in North Lakhimpur was tried for voluntarily causing grievous hurt to a coolie, who afterwards died. He was tried in the court of sessions before a mixed jury, and was found guilty of a simple assault, and was fined Rs. 100. This case was referred to on page 51 of the last Provincial Immigration Report.

"A manager was fined Rs. 50 for causing hurt to a boy by giving him a severe caning. The boy had been warned, and was caught trying to run away with a girl belonging to the garden. The manager had warned the boy, and deliberately took the law into his own hands. The sardár who caught the boy was fined for wrongfully restraining him.

"A manager charged a number of coolies with assault, but when the magistrate went to make enquiry, the charge was withdrawn. A serious charge was brought by a woman against a young assistant. It was proved to be entirely groundless, and probably arose from her misunderstanding the words used."

Relation between the tea garden population and the villagers.

52. There is nothing to note under this head. As a rule, the garden population continued to live on friendly terms with the natives of the country.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet writes—

"Between the garden population and the villagers also relations continue to be satisfactory. There is some slight friction amounting at times to a *marpit* between the coolies and the villagers. No cases however resulting in grievous hurt or homicide were heard of during the year. Occasionally they disagree, as when coolies are trying to abscond and the villagers in the hope of getting a reward try to arrest them, but, generally speaking, they seem to pull well together. The villagers find the garden bázárs most profitable markets for their rice, vegetables, &c., and take full advantage of them."

General condition of labourers.

53. This matter has been fully dealt with in the special report on the working of Act I of 1882, and there is nothing new to report in regard to it.

Settlement of time-expired garden labourers on the land.

54. The figures below show the amount of land held direct from Government by immigrants in the various districts of the Province :

District.	1889. *Acres.*	1890. *Acres.*
Cachar	6,626	7,133
Sylhet	284	300
Kámrúp	49	42
Darrang	6,371	7,454
Nowgong	1,425	1,895
Sibságar	9,217	10,639
Lakhimpur	4,404	4,897
Total	28,376	32,360

The increase is common to all districts except Kámrúp, but there can be little doubt that the figures do not embody complete information. Thus, the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang remarks—

"The acreage held by time-expired coolies continues to increase. But these figures do not include the numerous time-expired coolies who have settled on grants held by tea-planters. There are many such in the Bishnath, Charduar, and Pabhoi Companies' grants, and probably in other places which I have not yet seen."

And the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur reports—

"These figures admittedly do not show land held by coolies direct from managers, and the census returns of population will probably show that they are very incomplete. Immigrants have settled and are settling in large numbers, especially along the line of railway and the roads towards Jaipur and Sibságar, and that the tendency to settle down is increasing is obvious to the most casual observer. I know several large villages of immigrants where seven years ago there were none."

55. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1890-91 :

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

Receipts.	Rs.	a.	p.	Disbursements.	Rs.	a.	p.
Medical	28	12	0	Salaries of depôt establishments (including Native doctors, Hospital Assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menial servants)	10,145	8	11
Contractors' license fees under section 13	500	0	0	Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs) ...	5,116	0	7
Recruiters' license fees under section 24...	800	0	0	Contingent charges	813	13	1
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68	10,937	1	0	Grants to dispensaries	5,498	0	2
Fees for license of inland steamers and native boats under section 90 ...	1,516	0	0	Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers	21,108	4	3
Rates under section 109	50,965	8	0	Clerks and servants	13,172	2	9
Fees for use of debarkation depôts ...	3,175	15	6	Travelling allowances	1,481	14	6
Diet, &c., charges recovered ...	1,961	3	6	Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit establishments, refunds, pensions)	5,152	12	9
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospitals	149	2	3				
Cash recoveries	71	10	2				
Fines and miscellaneous	578	6	0				
Total	70,683	10	5	Total	62,488	9	0

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

Dated the 30th July 1891.

F. C. DAUKES,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

RETURN.

Return showing the Statistics of Labour Force of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Classes of labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during the year 1890.												Total of columns 2 and 14.
		Imported.			Otherwise than by importation.									
		By contractors.	By garden sardárs.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contract.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	
Cachar .. Act I labourers (adults) ..	10,043	520	862	....	696	63	35	54	....	....	....	....	2,230	12,273
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	44,395	....	....	1,450	....	..	552	..	3,219	5,311	....	1,165	11,697	56,092
Children ..	43,919	....	....	591	....	..	107	..	94	1,440	2,929	....	5,161	49,080
Total ..	98,357	520	862	2,041	696	63	694	54	3,313	6,751	2,929	1,165	19,088	117,445
Sylhet .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	9,444*	49	653	....	1,770	..	67	35	....	....	....	....	2,574	12,018
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	38,881*	....	....	4,301	....	..	1,752	..	1,761	2,719	....	841	11,374	50,255
Children ..	29,898	....	....	3,103	....	..	624	..	....	898	2,258	....	6,883	36,781
Total ..	78,223	49	653	7,404	1,770	..	2,443	35	1,761	3,617	2,258	841	20,831	99,054
Surma Valley .. Act-I labourers (adults)	19,487	569	1,515	....	2,466	63	102	89	....	....	....	....	4,804	24,291
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	83,276	....	....	5,751	....	..	2,304	..	4,980	8,030	....	2,006	23,071	106,347
Children ..	73,817	....	....	3,694	....	..	731	..	94	2,338	5,187	....	12,044	85,861
Total ..	176,580	569	1,515	9,445	2,466	63	3,137	89	5,074	10,368	5,187	2,006	39,919	216,499
Kámrúp .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	601	86	141	....	3	1	27	10	....	....	....	....	268	869
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	1,455	....	....	11	....	..	98	..	14	322	....	49	494	1,949
Children ..	1,216	....	....	17	....	..	47	..	....	57	109	....	230	1,446
Total ..	3,272	86	141	28	3	1	172	10	14	379	109	49	992	4,264
Darrang .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	16,471	1,904	829	...	3,344	141	136	79	....	....	....	....	6,433	22,904
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	11,438	....	....	354	....	..	50	..	1,972	3,588	....	371	6,335	17,773
Children ..	12,608	....	....	1,176	....	..	31	..	....	527	646	....	2,380	14,988
Total ..	40,517	1,904	829	1,530	3,344	141	217	79	1,972	4,115	646	371	15,148	55,665
Nowgong .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	2,748	440	491	....	127	20	40	12	....	....	....	....	1,130	3,878
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	6,309	....	....	1,062	....	..	88	..	392	927	....	46	2,515	8,824
Children ..	4,968	....	....	425	....	..	43	..	....	244	355	....	1,067	6,035
Total ..	14,025	440	491	1,487	127	20	171	12	392	1,171	355	46	4,712	18,737
Sibságar .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	33,222	2,647	2,314	....	8,400	392	1,064	75	....	....	....	....	14,892	48,114
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	20,748	....	....	423	....	..	544	..	4,491	3,524	...	613	9,595	30,343
Children ..	33,898	....	....	2,263	....	..	522	..	....	533	2,328	....	5,646	39,544
Total ..	87,868	2,647	2,314	2,686	8,400	392	2,130	75	4,491	4,057	2,328	613	30,133	118,001
Lakhimpur .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	24,741	4,436	2,001	....	2,375	81	371	166	....	....	....	...	9,430	34,171
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	19,198	....	....	1,251	....	..	280	..	2,320	1,917	....	437	6,185	25,383
Children ..	24,267	....	....	2,300	....	..	193	..	....	636	1,668	....	4,797	29,064
Total ..	68,206	4,436	2,001	3,551	2,375	81	844	166	2,320	2,553	1,668	437	20,412	88,618
Brahmaputra Valley. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	77,783	9,513	5,776	....	14,249	635	1,638	342	....	....	....	....	32,153	109,936
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	59,148	....	....	3,081	....	..	1,060	..	9,189	10,278	...	1,516	25,124	84,272
Children ..	76,957	....	....	6,181	....	..	836	..	....	1,997	5,106	....	14,120	91,077
Total ..	213,883	9,513	5,776	9,262	14,249	635	3,534	342	9,189	12,275	5,106	1,516	71,397	285,285
Total for the Province. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	97,270	10,082	7,291	....	16,715	698	1,740	431	....	....	....	....	36,957	134,227
Non-Act labourers .. Adults ..	142,424	....	....	8,832	....	..	3,364	..	14,169	18,308	....	3,522	48,195	190,619
Children ..	150,774	....	....	9,875	....	..	1,567	..	94	4,335	10,293	....	26,164	176,938
Total ..	390,468	10,082	7,291	18,707	16,715	698	6,671	431	14,263	22,643	10,293	3,522	111,316	501,784

* The difference of 12 labourers between these two entries and those shown in column 31 of the statement against Sylhet at the end of the Report for 1889, is due to some redistributed into their correct classes.

the Tea Gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1890.

16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
Deductions made during the year 1890.																	Number remaining at the end of the year 1890.	Strength on 1st July 1890.	Annual strength.		
Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	Deaths.		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Cancelment under sections 111, 140, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 129.	Suspended under section 120.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.			First half-year.	Second half-year.	Death rate per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.																
35	....	206	339	279	321	....	....	....	11	25	1	..	2,934	5	4	4,160	8,113	9,264	9,653	8,688	60·3
552	4,351	601	579	1,090	1,283	....	431	67	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	8,954	47,138	46,818	45,606	46,978	25·4
107	1,674	415	686	212	216	1,165	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,475	44,605	44,198	44,058	44,401	24·8
694	6,025	1,222	1,604	1,581	1,820	1,165	431	67	11	25	1	..	2,934	5	4	17,589	99,856	100,280	99,318	100,068	28·3
85	....	239	297	408	227	....	....	....	2	51	..	..	1,854	..	2	3,165	8,853	9,659	9,551	9,256	57·0
364	4,198	496	633	1,105	1,264	....	739	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	8,799	41,456	41,421	40,151	41,438	27·5
217	1,812	313	407	390	393	841	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,373	32,408	31,426	30,662	31,917	22·9
666	6,010	1,048	1,337	1,903	1,884	841	739	....	2	51	..	..	1,854	..	2	16,337	82,717	82,506	80,364	82,611	29·1
120	....	445	636	687	548	....	....	....	13	76	1	..	4,788	5	6	7,325	16,966	18,923	19,205	17,944	58·6
916	8,549	1,097	1,212	2,195	2,547	....	1,170	67	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	17,753	88,594	88,239	85,757	88,416	26·4
324	3,486	728	1,093	602	609	2,006	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	8,848	77,013	75,624	74,720	76,318	25·0
1,360	12,035	2,270	2,941	3,484	3,704	2,006	1,170	67	13	76	1	..	4,788	5	6	33,926	182,573	182,786	179,683	182,679	28·7
23	....	40	49	36	44	....	....	....	....	1	..	..	16	..	3	212	657	704	652	681	133·3
20	443	72	54	45	33	....	....	1	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	668	1,281	1,375	1,415	1,328	91·4
3	163	47	46	59	5	49	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	372	1,074	1,109	1,163	1,091	82·5
46	606	159	149	140	82	49	....	1	....	1	..	..	16	..	3	1,252	3,012	3,188	3,230	3,100	97·2
136	....	367	543	294	291	....	....	....	55	8	..	16	2,335	..	11	4,056	18,848	18,957	17,614	18,802	49·6
50	4,070	160	146	444	230	....	1,623	41	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	6,764	11,009	11,760	11,599	11,384	26·5
31	785	131	158	63	35	371	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	1,574	13,414	13,706	13,157	13,560	21·5
217	4,855	658	847	801	556	371	1,623	41	55	8	..	16	2,335	..	11	12,394	43,271	44,223	42,370	43,747	34·8
40	....	90	64	79	63	....	....	....	....	5	..	..	281	..	6	628	3,250	3,223	2,985	3,236	49·8
42	1,594	146	85	125	103	....	94	10	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,199	6,625	7,354	6,831	6,989	33·4
30	255	65	71	45	39	46	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	551	5,484	5,398	5,183	5,441	25·5
112	1,849	301	220	249	205	46	94	10	....	5	..	..	281	..	6	3,378	15,359	15,975	15,000	15,667	34·0
1,064	....	971	866	400	389	....	....	....	2	85	..	..	9,141	9	35	12,962	35,152	35,282	34,252	35,217	52·8
538	4,457	439	299	405	330	....	3,011	286	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	9,765	20,578	22,318	21,533	21,448	34·2
516	1,485	474	580	170	202	613	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,040	35,504	35,296	34,597	35,400	30·0
2,118	5,942	1,884	1,745	975	921	613	3,011	286	2	85	..	..	9,141	9	35	26,767	91,234	92,896	90,382	92,065	39·7
404	....	693	889	567	484	....	....	....	....	145	..	..	3,943	3	12	7,140	27,031	26,575	25,658	26,803	60·1
160	3,624	311	269	200	228	....	1,183	32	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	6,007	19,376	21,186	20,192	20,281	28·6
159	1,185	232	381	223	153	437	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,770	26,294	26,042	25,154	26,168	23·7
723	4,809	1,236	1,539	990	865	437	1,183	32	....	145	..	..	3,943	3	12	15,917	72,701	73,803	71,004	73,252	38·4
1,667	....	2,161	2,411	1,376	1,271	....	....	....	57	244	..	16	15,716	12	67	24,998	84,938	84,541	81,162	84,739	55·0
810	14,188	1,128	853	1,219	924	....	5,911	370	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	25,403	58,869	63,993	61,570	61,431	32·2
739	3,873	949	1,236	560	434	1,516	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	9,307	81,770	81,551	79,254	81,660	27·1
3,216	18,061	4,238	4,500	3,155	2,629	1,516	5,911	370	57	244	..	16	15,716	12	67	59,708	225,577	230,085	221,986	227,831	38·8
1,787	....	2,606	3,047	2,063	1,819	....	....	....	70	320	1	16	20,504	17	73	32,323	101,904	103,464	100,367	102,684	58·6
1,726	22,737	2,225	2,065	3,414	3,471	....	7,081	437	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	43,456	147,463	152,232	147,328	149,847	28·8
1,063	7,359	1,677	2,329	1,162	1,043	3,522	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	18,155	158,783	157,175	153,974	157,978	25·6
4,576	30,096	6,508	7,441	6,639	6,333	3,522	7,081	437	70	320	1	16	20,504	17	73	93,634	408,150	412,871	401,669	410,510	34·3

managers having erroneonlsy included in the previous year's Return No. 50 some non-Act coolies who should have been shown in Return No. 51. The labourers however have been

REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1891.

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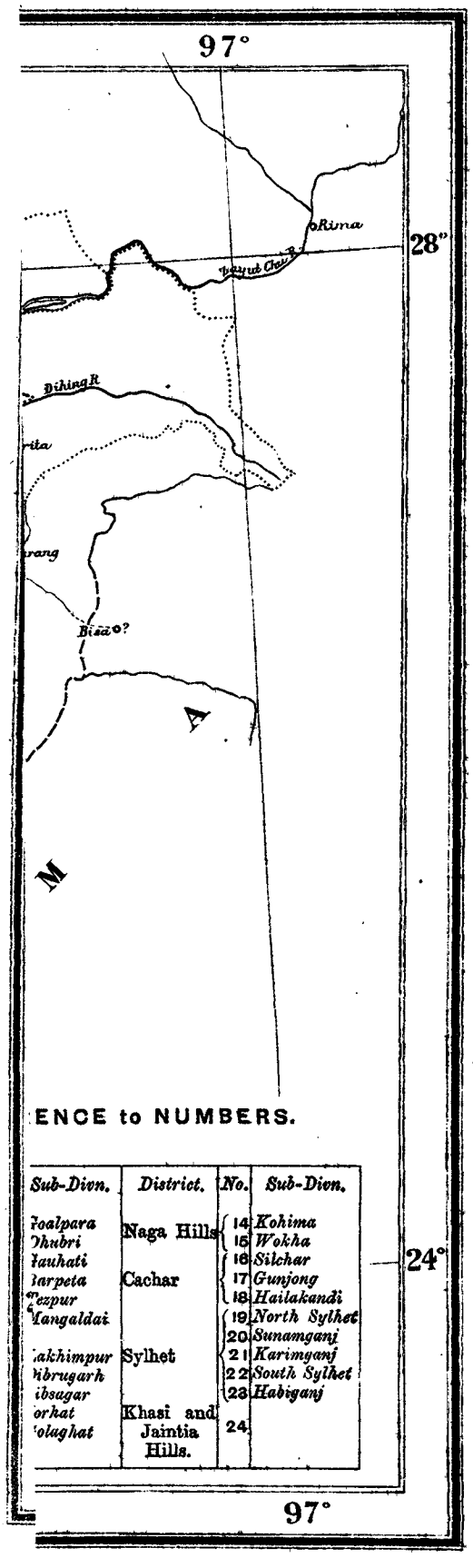

Sub-Divn.	District.	No.	Sub-Divn.
Goalpara	Naga Hills	14	Kohima
Dhubri		15	Wokha
Gauhati		16	Silchar
Barpeta	Cachar	17	Gunjong
Tezpur		18	Hailakandi
Mangaldai		19	North Sylhet
		20	Sunamganj
Lakhimpur	Sylhet	21	Karimganj
Sibrugarh		22	South Sylhet
Sibsagar		23	Habiganj
Jorhat	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	24	
Golaghat			

COOLIE ROUTES.

(1) INTO THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY—

(*a*) *Viâ Kaunia, Jatrapur, and Dhubri.*

(*b*) *Viâ Goalundo and Dhubri.*

(2) INTO THE SURMA VALLEY.

DEBARKATION DEPÔTS.

1. DIBRUGARH.
2. DISANGMUKH.
3. KOKILAMUKH.
4. NIGRITING.
5. SILGHAT.
6. TEZPUR.
7. SILCHAR.
8. KATIGORA.
9. SYLHET.
10. FENCHUGANJ.
11. MAULVI BAZAR.
12. HABIGANJ.
13. KARIMGANJ.

LANDING-PLACES NOT BEING DEPÔTS.

1. DIKHUMUKH.
2. KAMALABARI.
3. DHANSIRIMUKH.
4. BEHALIMUKH.
5. BISWANATH.
6. RANGAMATI.

PORTS OF INSPECTION.

1. DHUBRI.
2. GAUHATI.
3. TEZPUR.
4. DIBRUGARH.
5. KARIMGANJ.

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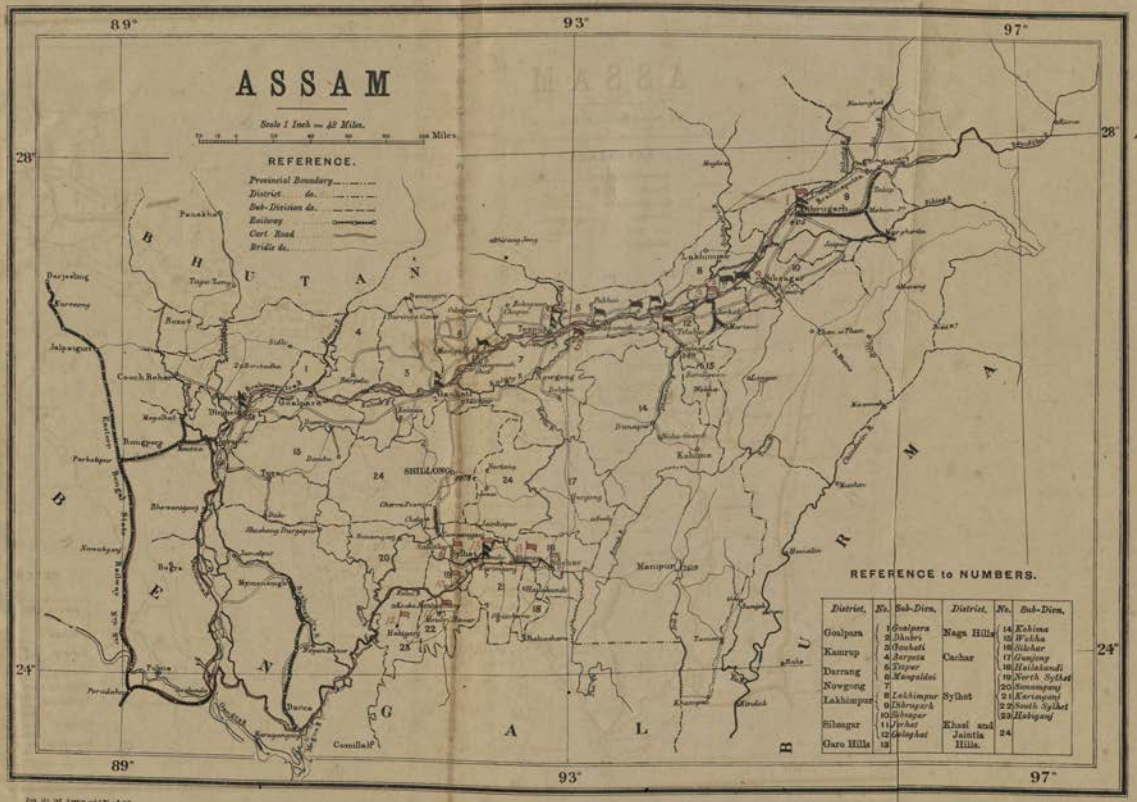
ASSAM
Scale 1 Inch = 48 Miles.
0 10 20 30 40 50 100 Miles
REFERENCE.
Provincial Boundary
District do.
Sub-Division do.
Railway
Cart Road
Bridle do.
89°
93°
97°
28°
24°
BHUTAN
BENGAL
BURMA
SHILLONG
Darjeeling
Jalpaiguri
Cooch Behar
Rangpur
Bogra
Pabna
Nowgong
Darrang
Kamrup
Goalpara
Lakhimpur
Sibsagar
Garo Hills
Cossimbazar
Dacca
Pandua
Sylhet
Cachar
Manipur
Naga Hills
Khasi and Jaintia Hills
REFERENCE to NUMBERS.
District. | No. | Sub-Divn. | District. | No. | Sub-Divn.
Goalpara | 1 | Goalpara | Naga Hills | 14 | Kohima
| 2 | Dhubri | | 15 | Wokha
Kamrup | 3 | Gauhati | | 16 | Silchar
| 4 | Barpeta | Cachar | 17 | Gunjung
Darrang | 5 | Tezpur | | 18 | Haflakandi
| 6 | Mangaldai | | 19 | North Sylhet
Nowgong | 7 | | | 20 | Nowmpany
| 8 | Lakhimpur | Sylhet | 21 | Karimganj
Lakhimpur | 9 | Dibrugarh | | 22 | South Sylhet
| 10 | Sibsagar | | 23 | Habiganj
Sibsagar | 11 | Jorhat | Khasi and Jaintia Hills. | 24
| 12 | Golaghat | |
Garo Hills | 13 | | |
COOLIE ROUTES.
(1) Into the Brahmaputra Valley—
(a) Viâ Kamnia, Jatrapur, and Dhubri.
(b) Viâ Goalunde and Dhubri.
(2) Into the Surma Valley.
DEBARKATION DEPÔTS.
1. Dibrugarh.
2. Disangmukh.
3. Kokilamukh.
4. Nigriting.
5. Silghat.
6. Tezpur.
7. Silchar.
8. Katigora.
9. Sylhet.
10. Fenchuganj.
11. Maulvi Bazar.
12. Habiganj.
13. Karimganj.
LANDING-PLACES NOT BEING DEPÔTS.
1. Dikhumukh.
2. Kamalabari.
3. Dhansirimukh.
4. Behalimukh.
5. Biswanath.
6. Rangamati.
PORTS OF INSPECTION.
1. Dhubri.
2. Gauhati.
3. Tezpur.
4. Dibrugarh.
5. Karimganj.

REPORT ON LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1891.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

1. The following table compares the immigration of all classes of labourers into the province during the past two years :

Provincial figures.

		1890.	1891.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ...	Sardári adults ...	7,291	9,241	+1,950	+26·7
	Contractors' adults ..	10,082	16,071	+5,989	+59·4
Non-Act...	Adults ...	8,832	12,627	+3,795	+42·9
Total		26,205	37,939	+11,734	+44·7
Children		9,875	11,969	+2,094	+21·2
Grand total, including children...		36,080	49,908	+13,828	+38·3

The year under report was thus characterised by a considerable increase in immigration under all classes of immigrants, the increase being especially marked in the case of adult labourers imported through the agency of contractors. Various explanations are offered in the district reports of the increased immigration, the explanations relating either to the conditions which prevailed in the labour districts, such as extensions of cultivation, or a further appreciation on the part of managers of the benefit of an adequate labour force, or to the circumstances which prevailed during the year in some of the districts of recruitment. Speaking generally, however, and although no doubt the increased immigration is partly to be accounted for by extensions of cultivation on tea gardens in the province, the Chief Commissioner would attribute the result rather to the abnormally small importations of the previous year. The totals under each head for each of the past five years were as follows :

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Act adults	21,639	22,601	24,799	17,373	25,312
Non-Act adults	7,451	10,716	12,749	8,832	12,627
Total of Act and non-Act adults	29,090	33,317	37,548	26,205	37,939
Children	7,373	12,976	18,110	9,875	11,969
Grand total, including children	36,463	46,293	55,658	36,080	49,908

It will thus be seen that the number of Act adults imported during the year under report was larger than the corresponding figures for any of the previous four years, and that this was also the case with regard to non-Act adults if the comparison is made with any of the previous four years except 1889. The number of children imported shows a considerable increase over the previous year, but was less than the corresponding figures for either of the years 1888 or 1889.

2. The following table gives the statistics of importations for each district of the province separately :

District and valley statistics.

District.	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1890.	1891.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1890.	1891.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1890.	1891.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1890.	1891.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1890.	1891.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar ..	1,382	2,396	+73·37	1,450	2,393	+65·03	2,832	4,789	+69·10	591	736	+24·53	3,423	5,525	+61·40
Sylhet ..	702	486	−30·76	4,301	7,567	+75·93	5,003	8,053	+60·96	3,103	3,891	+25·39	8,106	11,944	+47·34
Total Surma Valley	2,084	2,882	+38·22	5,751	9,960	+73·18	7,835	12,842	+63·90	3,694	4,627	+25·25	11,529	17,469	+51·52
Kámrúp ..	227	367	+61·67	11	156	+1,318·18	238	523	+119·74	17	179	+952·94	255	702	+175·29
Darrang ..	2,733	4,932	+80·46	354	292	−17·51	3,087	5,224	+69·22	1,176	1,837	+56·20	4,263	7,061	+65·68
Nowgong ..	931	1,017	+ 9·23	1,062	685	−35·49	1,993	1,702	−14·60	425	492	+15·76	2,418	2,194	−9·26
Sibságar ..	4,961	6,489	+30·80	423	458	+8·27	5,384	6,947	+29·03	2,263	2,405	+6·27	7,647	9,352	+22·2
Lakhimpur ..	6,437	9,625	+49·52	1,231	1,076	−12·59	7,668	10,701	+39·42	2,300	2,429	+5·60	9,968	13,130	+31·72
Total Assam Valley	15,289	22,430	+46·70	3,081	2,667	−13·43	18,370	25,097	+36·61	6,181	7,342	+18·78	24,551	32,439	+32·12
Grand total ..	17,373	25,312	+45·69	8,832	12,627	+42·96	26,205	37,939	+44·77	9,875	11,969	+21·20	36,080	49,908	+38·32

These figures show that the increase under the head of Act adults was common to all districts of the province except Sylhet, where the decrease was due to a falling off under the head of labourers recruited through the agency of sardárs (from 653 in the previous year to 410, or by 37·21 per cent.). Under the head of non-Act adults a considerable increase took place in both of the districts in the Surma Valley, while a decrease is apparent in the case of all districts of the Assam Valley except Kámrúp and Sibságar. As above stated, the Chief Commissioner believes these results, so far as Act importations generally and non-Act importations in the Surma Valley are concerned, to be largely due to the fact that the amount of labour imported during the preceding year was abnormally small, but there is no doubt that they are also partly to be ascribed to the opening out of new gardens and to extensions of existing gardens within the province. Such extensions are especially noticed in the reports received from Cachar, Sylhet, and Darrang. In Sylhet the Deputy Commissioner refers to extensions of cultivation in the South Sylhet and Karimganj subdivisions, and the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang mentions the fact that several gardens are being opened out in the northern part of the sadr subdivision. In the Kámrúp district, the large proportionate increase which occurred is ascribed to the starting of work on the Bengal-Assam Railway, managers having imported more largely with the object of taking up railway contracts.

3. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the various localities of recruitment :

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden Sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men ...	439	557	848	1,123	555	579	1,842	2,359
	Women...	366	587	814	1,235	453	619	1,633	2,441
Total		805	1,244	1,662	2,358	1,008	1,198	3,475	4,800
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	678	750	767	1,272	2,010	3,616	3,455	5,638
	Women...	473	392	549	1,107	1,605	3,387	2,627	4,886
Total		1,151	1,142	1,316	2,379	3,615	7,003	6,082*	10,524
Behar	Men ...	.....	711	.....	620	.....	545	.....	1,876
	Women...	.....	465	.....	481	.....	399	.....	1,345
Total		.....	1,176	.....	1,101	.....	944	.....	3,221
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	2,561	2,467	3,308	4,919	1,017	1,502	6,886	8,888
	Women...	2,489	2,259	2,843	4,425	944	985	6,276	7,669
Total		5,050	4,726	6,151	9,344	1,961	2,487	13,162	16,557
Nepal	Men ...	1	13	16	90	10	6	27	109
	Women...	1	34	.....	26	12	4	13	64
Total		2	47	16	116	22	10	40	173
Madras	Men ...	158	483	552	439	345	209	1,055	1,131
	Women...	102	379	355	312	383	196	840	887
Total		260	862	907	751	728	405	1,895	2,018
Bombay	Men ...	2	18	1	12	2	10	5	40
	Women...	2	12	.....	9	3	6	5	27
Total		4	30	1	21	5	16	10	67
Assam	Men ...	.....	.....	15	1	1,393	505	1,408	506
	Women...	.....	.....	14	.....	61	58	75	58
Total		.....	.....	29	1	1,454	563	1,483	564
Orissa	Men ...	10	8	.....	.....	24	1	34	9
	Women...	9	6	.....	.....	15	.....	24	6
Total		19	14	.....	.....	39	1	58	15
Total	Men ...	3,849	5,107	5,507	8,476	5,356	6,973	14,712	20,556
	Women...	3,442	4,134	4,575	7,595	3,476	5,654	11,493	17,383
Grand total...		7,291	9,241	10,082	16,071	8,832	12,627	26,205	37,939

This statement, in which the statistics for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and for Behar are for the first time separately given, shows greater activity of recruitment in all cases except under Assam and Orissa, the increase under the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and under Chota Nagpur being especially marked. In regard to the classification of immigrants, the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang writes :

I doubt if more than half of the people described as Chota Nagpur coolies really come from the Chota Nagpur division. It is a common practice for recruiters to *chalan* coolies from Banda and Basti, from Jaunpur, Ghazipur to Purulia, where they are put under contract as junglis. I have come across several instances of this form of swindling, and have reported two very glaring cases, which resulted in excessive mortality, to the Chief Commissioner.

The particular instances referred to in the above extract were referred by the Chief Commissioner to the Bengal Government, with the remark that, assuming the circumstances to be as represented, a case seemed to have been made out for cancelling the license of the contractors concerned on the ground of misconduct. A careful enquiry was made into the matter by the Superintendent of Emigration at Calcutta, with the result that the contractor was shown to have declined to undertake any responsibility in connection with the castes and

* Includes figures for Behar also.

districts of the coolies at the time he agreed to supply them, and to have invited personal inspection and selection of the coolies by the firms which required them. In one case the obvious precaution of inspecting the coolies before despatch was not taken by or on behalf of the firms concerned while in another the coolies were despatched after selection by an agent of the firm. Under these circumstances, the Bengal Government decided that no action on the part of Government was necessary or possible. There can be no doubt that this decision was correct, but the Chief Commissioner must confess that he is unable to understand why the agents in such cases do not take the necessary steps to satisfy themselves that the article which they want, and not an altogether different one, is supplied before delivery is accepted. The following tables show the relative order in which each locality of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations :

(*a*) *Act Importations.*

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1891.
	Garden sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur	4,726	9,344	14,070
(2) Bengal	1,244	2,358	3,602
(3) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,142	2,379	3,521
(4) Behar	1,176	1,101	2,277

(*b*) *Non-Act Importations.*

	Number of labourers imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	7,003
(2) Chota Nagpur	2,487
(3) Bengal	1,198
(4) Behar	944

The large increase which took place during the year under report in the number of non-Act importations from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh (from 3,615 in the previous year, including Behar, to 7,003) is noteworthy.

Female immigrants.

4. The proportion of women amongst adult immigrants from the chief localities of recruitment is given below :

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Bengal	45·4	47·2	48·9	52·3	44·9	51·6	46·9	50·8
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	41·1	34·3	41·7	46·5	44·3	48·3	43·1	46·4
Behar	...	39·5	...	43·6	...	42·2	...	41·7
Chota Nagpur...	49·2	47·7	46·2	47·3	48·1	39·6	47·6	46·3
Total	47·2	44·7	45·3	47·2	39·3	44·7	43·8	45·8

The unsatisfactory features in this return are the falling off in the percentage of women in the case of sardári immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and from Chota Nagpur. Under the head of contractors' immigrants and non-Act immigrants (except in the case of Chota Nagpur) the figures show improvement in all cases.

Contractors' and sardári coolies.

5. The following table gives the number of Act coolies imported during the past two years into each district, and shows the average number imported by each sardár :

District.	Sardári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardárs.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1891, as compared with 1890	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	Sardári.	Contractors.
Cachar	862	1,520	480	598	1·7	2·5	520	876	+76·3	+ 68·4
Sylhet...	653	410	241	288	2·7	1·4	49	76	—37·2	+ 55·1
Total Surma Valley ...	1,515	1,930	721	886	2·1	2·1	569	952	+27·3	+ 67·3
Kámrúp	141	173	48	48	2·9	3·6	86	194	+22·6	+125·5
Darrang	829	1,628	672	459	1·2	3·5	1,904	3,304	+96·3	+ 73·5
Nowgong	491	524	226	220	2·1	2·3	440	493	+ 6·7	+ 12·0
Sibságar	2,314	2,499	898	978	2·5	2·5	2,647	3,990	+ 7·9	+ 50·7
Lakhimpur	2,001	2,487	642	819	3·1	3·0	4,436	7,138	+24·2	+ 60·9
Total Assam Valley ...	5,776	7,311	2,486	2,524	2·3	2·8	9,513	15,119	+26·5	+ 58·9
Grand total	7,291	9,241	3,207	3,410	2·2	2·7	10,082	16,071	+26·7	+ 59·4

The only district which shows a decrease in the number of sardári coolies imported is Sylhet, but it has to be remembered in this connection that the free system is largely resorted to in that district. The number of certificates granted to garden sardárs increased in every district except Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong, and the average recruits per sardár increased in Cachar, Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong, while it decreased in Sylhet and Lakhimpur, and in Sibságar it stood at the same figure as in the previous year. The number of contractors' coolies imported during the year increased in every district. In the case of all districts except Cachar and Darrang the proportionate increase in the case of contractors' coolies imported during the year was greater than that of sardári coolies. The number of sardárs' certificates, which provided for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement, was 1,330, against 1,177 in the previous year.

Cost of importation.

6. There is no new information to be recorded under this head.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley.

7. During the year under report 20,319 immigrants started from the recruiting districts for Assam, against 17,199 in the previous year, showing an increase of 3,120. The casualties *en route* to Dhubri, that is, the number of coolies who died or absconded, were returned by the depôt managers as 2 only (1 died and 1 absconded), against 46 (8 died and 38 absconded) in the previous year. Detentions *en route* were returned as 4 only, against 51 in the previous year, but the accuracy of these figures may be open to doubt. The preference shown for the Goalundo over the Kaunia route continues, 12,451 out of the 20,313 immigrants, who arrived at Dhubri during the year under report, having adopted the former route. Of the total number of immigrants who arrived at Dhubri, 1,668 were recruited by licensed sardárs, and the remainder (18,645) came up under the free system. Of these latter, 109 passed as free immigrants, and of the balance, 13,900 were put under contract and 4,636 were passed as dependents attached to them. The Civil Surgeon examined 13,648 immigrants (against 8,647 in the previous year) before they were placed under contract, of whom 12,930 were passed, and 718 (against 510 in the previous year) were rejected. Of those rejected, 250 were sent on as dependents and 143 as free by the depôt managers, 314 (against 136 in the previous year) were returned to their homes by the depôt managers, and 11 (against 40 in the previous year) were returned to their homes by the Civil Surgeon. There is no doubt that the Civil Surgeon exercises great care and strictness in his examination of the immigrants, and no complaints were received from garden managers of unfit persons having been sent up on contract. As regards the Dhubri system generally, the Deputy Commissioner remarks :

> The system of putting coolies on contract at Dhubri remains as before, and every possible care is taken to see that no coolie goes up without having his contract especially explained to him individually. Even after the coolie has executed his contract here, if he objects to proceed, his contract is cancelled, and he is next day returned at the contractor's expense to where he came from. In this the several depôt managers give us loyal support. It is evidently quite understood by every one concerned in immigration here that it is to the interest of us all to see that no coolies are sent up against their wishes. It seems to me to be one of the advantages of the Dhubri system that the coolie has this chance of coming so far, and then, if he likes, refusing to go on further and being sent back at the contractor's expense.

The Dhubri depôts were inspected during the year by the Commissioner, who observes :

I was present while immigrants were put on contract at three depôts. If the care taken in my presence to explain the meaning of the contract is always exercised, it is impossible that any immigrant can be unaware of what he is doing, or can be subject to compulsion. In the case of women unaccompanied by their husbands, the questions are specially searching.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

8. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that out of 3,348 immigrants despatched from Goalundo in 236 batches, 62 batches, comprising 1,052 coolies, were forwarded direct by steamer, and 174 batches with 2,296 coolies were forwarded as far as Fenchuganj by steamer, and thence by country boat. The deaths on the journey aggregated 44, or 13·1 per mille, against 35, or 19·6 per mille, in the previous year ; but to these must be added 30 deaths which occurred in the debarkation depôts. As regards Sylhet, the returns supplied by the local agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company, Fenchuganj, show that out of 11,944 coolies imported, only 2,224, or 18·6 per cent., used the steamers for transit from Goalundo to Fenchuganj, against 3,563, or 43·9 per cent., in the previous year. Four persons were reported by the agents as having died from cholera during the journey to Sylhet. No explanation is forthcoming of the greater extent to which the steamer service is used for the conveyance of coolies to Cachar than to Sylhet ; but as regards the falling off in the percentage of coolies who were conveyed by steamer to the latter district during the year under report the Deputy Commissioner observes :

The only reason which suggests itself for the falling off in the percentage of coolies who used the despatch steamers is that more coolies now come to the tea districts independently (*i.e.*, unaccompained by contractors' agents) and that they prefer the cheaper route.

The Chief Commissioner is of course aware that a large proportion of immigrants into the Surma Valley come up under the free method, and can accordingly travel by whatever means they choose, while the tendency of the system of recruitment generally adopted in that valley is to favour recourse to the cheapest means of transport. On the other hand, it is urged, and not without reason, that the high rates of fares charged for the steamer journey deter immigrants, whether or not recruited under the free system, from making use of the steamer service. The reports received from the Deputy Commissioners make no mention of the results of the sanitary rules issued under the Bengal Act, I of 1889, and this matter will be separately enquired into, the Deputy Commissioners being required to notice it prominently in future reports.

When inspecting the Silchar depôt in November 1891, the Chief Commissioner recorded the following note :

The arrivals this year have been 2,826 to date, against 1,322 for the whole of last year distributed thus :

Year.	Emigrants.	Dependents.	Total.
1891 (to 14th November)	1,819	1,007	2,826
1890	793	529	1,322

I see that the total arrivals were in—

1885	2,660
1886	2,611
1887	2,253
1888	2,907
1889	2,737

The importation, therefore, of Act coolies through this depôt promises to exceed the importations of any year since 1884, and is already more than double the importations of last year.

The following statistics are instructive as obtained from the registers of this depôt :

Year.	Total number despatched from Goalundo.	Deaths *en route*.	Deaths at hospital.	Total deaths.	Arrivals at depôt.	Sent on to gardens.	Death rate *en route* per cent.	Death rate *en route* and at hospital, per cent.
1884 ...	4,219	351	81	432	3,822	3,715	8·31	10·23
1885 ...	2,793	110	35	145	2,660	2,622	3·93	5·19
1886 ...	2,854	178	19	197	2,611	2,589	6·23	6·90
1887 ...	2,385	79	22	101	2,253	2,229	3·31	4·23
1888 ...	3,058	95	36	131	2,907	2,866	3·10	4·28
1889 ...	2,899	117	61	178	2,737	2,673	4·03	6·14
1890 ..	1,344	16	10	26	1,322	1,309	1·19	1·93
1891 (to 14th November)	2,940	39	20	59	2,826	2,804	1·32	2·00

The deaths in the above statement do not include persons said to have absconded or to have been left behind. These figures speak for themselves. In 1884, before the steamer service was started, 8·31 per cent. of the immigrants under the Act died *en route* in a journey of, say, one month. This appalling death rate *en route* has now been reduced to 1·32 per cent., the period of the journey being of course much reduced.

We know nothing of the death rate among *free** immigrants who come up all the way from Goalundo, and some all the way from the North-Western Provinces, by boat, nor have we the means of ascertaining. It would appear from enquiries that I have made that these free immigrants are all from the North-Western Provinces. I should be glad if the Deputy Commissioner would ascertain for me why these men come up by boat to Fenchuganj in preference to the steamer. Is it because the sardár finds it cheaper, and is under contract with the planter to supply at a certain rate per head, or is it that the North-Western coolie objects to the steamer on the ground, as I have heard it stated, that he will not feed on board, and prefers feeding on shore?

The reasons why coolies are conveyed by boat in preference to steamer were subsequently thus explained by the Deputy Commissioner :

It appears that it is a common practice for managers to give a contract to a recruiter for so many coolies delivered on the garden at so much, say Rs. 15, per head. So long as he obtains the number of coolies he wants, the manager takes no further interest in the coolies, and the contractor of course tries to land them on the garden as cheaply as he can. With this object in view, he hires one or more large boats paying for it some fixed sum, packs into it all the coolies it can hold, and comes up by easy stages. It costs him less than bringing them by steamer, and if he has luck and does not get cholera, he can always dispose of any surplus coolies.

The coolies also prefer boat travelling. I refer more particularly to North-Western Provinces coolies, as they stop when and where they please on the way up, have always plenty of time to cook on shore, and above all because there are no (to them) irksome regulations which they are compelled to comply with.

9. The following statement shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year under report :

Debarkation depôts.

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts.				Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure.	
				Through want of a guide.	In hospital.	For segregation.	For the night only.		Buildings	Establishments, &c.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	2	5,525	3,229	.....	158	211	537	...	5,265 0 0	3,047 7 6
Sylhet	5	11,944	728	.....	3	88	.....	...	394 11 0	1,050 2 11
Kámrúp	...	.....	.....	.....	...	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Darrang	1	7,061	6,669	2,670	26	...	1,025	...	299 15 9	1,075 15 10
Nowgong ...	1	2,194	1,562	117	29	72	419	...	110 0 0	403 3 6
Sibságar	3	9,352	10,607†	3,558	68	487	1,251	...	532 5 3	2,855 8 1
Lakhimpur ...	1	13,130	10,913	2,830	84‡	...	6,708	...	300 0 0	1,076 10 0
Total	13	49,206	33,708	9,175	368	858	9,940	...	6,902 0 0	9,508 15 10
Total for 1890 ...	14	35,798	25,095	14,591	194	559	.....	...	2,014 11 0	9,783 0 5

The number of depôts remained the same as in the previous year, except that there was a decrease of one in the Sibságar district in consequence of the closing of the depôt at Kamalabari, to which reference was made in paragraph 10 of last year's report. As usual, only a small proportion of the immigrants into Sylhet passed through the depôts in that district. In accordance with orders passed during the year, the above statement comprises a separate column showing the number of coolies detained at depôts for the night only ; but even when these are excluded, the numbers detained through want of a guide continue to be considerable. The question whether a slightly higher charge should not be levied for the second and subsequent days during which persons are thus detained has been under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, with the result that orders have been recently issued that, as an experimental measure, an enhanced rate should be levied in such cases, the Deputy Commissioner or subdivisional officer being authorised to remit the higher rate for sufficient reasons. During the year under report the Silchar depôt was removed to a new site, which accounts for the large expenditure on buildings in the Cachar district.

* This includes importations by unlicensed sardárs as well as free immigrants in the true sense.

† This includes 1,784 immigrants for Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur.

‡ This includes 14 deaths in the depôt.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

10. The number of labourers and dependents despatched from Dhubri was 19,552, of whom 30 (against 4 in the previous year) died *en route* to the gardens. Besides these, 11,776 immigrants were shipped at Goalundo for gardens in the Assam Valley (against 7,629 in the previous year), amongst whom 12 deaths occurred between Goalundo and Dhubri, 13 between Dhubri and Gauháti, 8 between Gauháti and Tezpur, and 5 between Tezpur and Dibrugarh.

The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reports that cholera broke out on several occasions in epidemic form among the Goalundo coolies, and it would seem to have been communicated to the coolies placed on board at Dhubri. In this connection it has to be remembered that it is not possible to keep coolies for a prolonged period at Dhubri, as to do so would involve the serious risk of overcrowding the depôts. Of the 30 deaths which occurred amongst the coolies shipped at Dhubri, no less than 19 were due to cholera, which is reported to have been prevalent amongst the immigrants between the months of February and July. The total casualties on the journey through the Assam Valley were as follows :

	Number of deaths.		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total 1891.
At Dhubri	33	7	40
On board the steamers	19	11	30
At ports of debarkation—			
Gauháti	...	...	...
Tezpur	9	3	12
Silghat	...	...	...
Kokilamukh	3	3	6
Disangmukh	6	4	10
Nigriting	...	2	2
Mohanamukh	13	1	14
	—	—	—
Total	83	31	114
	—	—	—
Total for 1890	22	15	37
	—	—	—

It will thus be seen that cholera is largely accountable for the increased mortality, though the deaths from other causes advanced from 15 in the previous year to 31.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley districts.

11. The following figures given by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Sylhet refer only to coolies imported under the Act who passed through the depôts :

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who left Goalundo.	Deaths.			
			En route.	In hospital.	Total.	Proportion per mille.
Cachar ...	1891	3,348	44	30	74	22·1
	1890	1,784	25	10	35	19·6
Sylhet ...	1891	729	1	...	1	1·3
	1890	1,521	2	...	2	1·3

The increase which took place in the mortality in the Cachar district is to be regretted. It was mainly due to cholera, which caused 56, or two-thirds of the total deaths. The Deputy Commissioners referred to have not reported how much of this mortality occurred on steamers. They have been directed to give this information in future.

12. During the year under report, the usual careful watch was kept in regard to complaints of fraudulent practices in connection with recruitment, and action was invariably taken when necessary. On this subject the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára writes :

Cases of kidnapping, fraudulent recruitment, and enticement.

Inquiries relating to fraudulent recruitment of coolies were made on three accounts, *viz.*, (*a*) on receipt of complaints from the magistrates of the recruiting districts or from the relatives of the persons enticed away ; (*b*) on coolies complaining to the registering officers direct ; (*c*) on registering officers suspecting any fraud having been practised in the recruitment of any coolie produced before them for registration.

In 1891, 95 enquiries in all were made, against 198 in the previous year, of which 63 were of first, 3 of second, and 29 of third description.

Inquiry regarding 46 missing persons was unsuccessful. Only 17 persons were traced. The cases of 7 persons were abandoned, as all of them were of 16, or above 16, years of age. The statements made by three persons disclosed no criminal action, so their cases were dropped. One person was quite willing to serve in the garden. The case regarding one was struck off from the statement, as the person enquiring regarding her was not traceable. Two persons were medically rejected, and returned home, of whom one came again with her relatives. Punishment was obtained in the case of two persons only. In one case one of the accused was sentenced to undergo one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100, or, in default, three months' rigorous imprisonment more, under sections 417 and 420, Indian Penal Code, and the other sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50, or, in default, to one month's rigorous imprisonment under section 417, Indian Penal Code, and in another case one accused was sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment under section 497, Indian Penal Code. One case is still pending. The accused in the case that was pending in 1890 was discharged under section 253, Criminal Procedure Code.

The three persons complaining before the registering officers were forwarded to the magistrates in whose jurisdiction the offence was committed. One person voluntarily came back again, and the rest were unable to identify the recruiters. The four cases that were shown as pending in last year's report were abandoned, as in two of them the complainants were unable to furnish particulars regarding the recruiters, and in the rest the evidence to establish the complaints was insufficient.

Of the 29 persons enquired about at the instance of the registering officer himself, 12 were identified in their villages ; in the case of four of them no fraud was practised, as they came of their own accord. One was a woman of bad character. The relatives of seven did not take any steps to recover them, as it was impossible for them to get the contracts redeemed or to bring home any complaints. Of the four pending enquiries mentioned in last year's report, two were successful. In one case it was found that the woman was of loose character, and in the other no attempt was made by the relatives of the person for her recovery.

Commenting on these statistics, the Commissioner writes :

Complaints of fraudulent recruiting have been fewer than in the previous year, though the business has been more brisk. Adopting the threefold division of previous reports, I find the numbers are :

	First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Total.
1888	42	14	40	96
1889	47	28	97	172
1890	90	16	92	198
1891	63	3	29	95

The complaints in the first class are many of them mere police enquiries into missing persons, and should not, I think, find a place in a table of complaints of fraudulent recruiting.

The Chief Commissioner is not prepared to accept the view that complaints of the first class should in future be excluded.

The following figures relate to complaints made in the several districts of the province other than Goálpára :

District.	Complaints.	True cases.	False cases.	Not proved.	Pending.
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang	4	1	1	1	1
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...
Sibságar	9	1	...	4	4
Lakhimpur	29	1	5	15	8

In Cachar and Sylhet no cases of kidnapping or fraudulent recruitment were brought to notice during the year. In one instance the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum forwarded for enquiry by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet a complaint in which it was alleged that a woman of that district had been enticed away, and put under contract in the Habiganj subdivision. On enquiry the woman stated that she left her husband's home of her own accord and on account of the illtreatment

she received there. In Kámrúp no cases of fraudulent recruitment were brought to notice. In Darrang enquiries were made into four cases. In one case a gang of 13 coolies from Jabalpur, in the Central Provinces, complained that they had been enticed away. The Jabalpur authorities are still enquiring into this case, but it should be noted that the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reports that he himself put these coolies under contract at Dhubri, and that they gave their agreements willingly and cheerfully. In another case, which was reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, a complaint was made that a minor girl had been kidnapped. The girl was traced and sent to Lohardaga ; but the Deputy Commissioner acquitted the accused person on the express grounds—(1) that the girl was not a minor, and (2) that she was not taken away by force or fraud. A third case, in which a Musalman girl was said to have been smuggled into Assam, was enquired into by the authorities at Gorakhpur in the North-Western Provinces. This girl was supplied to the Bishnath Tea Company by a contractor as a Hindu woman from Deoghur in the Sonthal Parganas. The Chief Commissioner understands from the Deputy Commissioner's report that she has been repatriated. The fourth and last case was enquired into at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, and related to two coolies employed by the Bhareli Tea Company, both of whom alleged that they had executed their agreements willingly, and were quite happy. In the Nowgong district no case of kidnapping or fraudulent recruitment was brought to light during the year. In Sibságar an enquiry was made, at the instance of the subdivisional officer of Dumka, into the case of a married woman, who was said to have been enticed away from her home and to have been sent to a tea garden in that district. In the course of the enquiry, the woman stated that she had been enticed away from her home, but that she had executed a contract at Dhubri of her own free will, that she had quarrelled with her mother-in-law, and did not wish to return to her husband. The subdivisional officer, Dumka, has not yet communicated the final result of this case. In another case a complaint was made that a lad had been recruited in the district of Lohardaga under a false name. He was sent to Ranchi to give evidence with the result that he was shown to have been recruited under a false name, but it was not clear that he had been recruited by fraud. The person who was accused in this case was discharged under section 253 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and, with the consent of the owners of the garden, the contract was cancelled on payment of compensation by the relatives of the boy. In a third case complaint was made by the brother of an immigrant that the latter had been fraudulently recruited under a false name from Giridhi. This complaint was corroborated by the immigrant, but enquiry showed that the case was probably false, and it was dropped, as the relatives of the man did not wish to press it. Eventually, the man absconded from the garden, and returned to his home. In a fourth case enquiry was made in regard to a boy who was said to have been kidnapped, but no trace of him could be found. The fifth case relates to two coolie women who complained to the Deputy Commissioner when inspecting a garden that they had been fraudulently recruited. On enquiry at Rewa, where their homes were said to be, no trace of them could be found. In the sixth and seventh cases a complaint was made by a woman and by a man that they had been seized by *arkatis* and sent to Assam against their will. These cases are still under enquiry by the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum ; but in the meantime the woman has been repatriated at the cost of the garden manager, her agreement having been cancelled by mutual consent. In another case a gang of some fifteen coolies in the Golághát subdivision complained that they had been fraudulently recruited. These men were registered at Raniganj, and put under contract at Calcutta. Enquiries are now being made at the places where they were recruited. In the case left pending from the previous year, in which a woman was stated to have been abducted from her home in the Manbhum district, the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar is taking steps for the repatriation of the woman and for the cancelment of her contract, as there was reason to suppose that she had been recruited by deceit. In the Lakhimpur district 29 cases of alleged fraudulent recruiting were enquired into, against 13 cases in the previous year. Of these 29 cases, 10 related to single women, 2 of whom could not be traced. One of the women to whom these complaints related denied having been brought up on false pretences, and one, though alleged to have been brought up under false pretences, was willing to remain on the garden to serve out the term of her contract, while two cases were dismissed, one as a mistake of fact, and the other because the woman was over 16 years of age, and a charge under section 363 of the Indian Penal Code could not be maintained. In another case the magistrate in Bengal could give no information as to how the woman was recruited, but it appeared from enquiries made there that the woman was probably a willing agent. The results of three cases are not known, as replies to the Deputy Commissioner's reference to Bengal districts have not been received.

Three cases referred to three batches of single women, two consisting of three women each and one consisting of two women. In one case the charge against the accused was under section 363, Indian Penal Code; but the two girls alleged to have been kidnapped, were over 16 years of age, and as they came up to Assam of their own free will, the case was dismissed under section 253, Criminal Procedure Code. In the second case the women (three) appeared to be of loose character, and no fraud seemed to have been used in recruiting them, while the third case is pending receipt of reply from Bengal. In seven cases it was alleged that ten boys were kidnapped from their homes. In four cases the boys being over 16 years of age, the cases were struck off; in one case the boys could not be traced; while two cases are still pending in Bengal. Five cases referred to five batches of coolies, who complained that they had been brought up under false pretences. In the first of these cases, six coolies of the Hukanguri garden deserted, and when brought up for trial, complained that they had been fraudulently recruited. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reported that the contracts were duly executed. The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur subsequently saw the coolies on the garden. The two leaders had deserted, and the rest had no complaints to make. In the second case four coolies of the Khobang tea estate deserted, and when brought up for trial, alleged that they had been wrongfully recruited by a sardár of the Khobang garden. They failed to prove their case. The third case related to a batch of three coolies, who were brought up to the Assam Railway and Trading Company's coal mines. The agreements were cancelled, and the coolies were sent to their homes. The Agent objected to pay the expense, which fell on Government. In the fourth case about 140 Rewa coolies of the Khobang tea garden came into Dibrugarh, and complained that they had been recruited by the native doctor of the garden under false pretences, and that while in the garden they had been illtreated by the manager. These coolies behaved in a lawless manner, and when they returned to the garden assaulted the manager. The Deputy Commissioner tried some of them for rioting, and imprisoned them for various terms. The complaint of illtreatment on the garden was ascertained to be false, and the question whether the coolies were recruited under false pretences is still under enquiry. In the fifth case four coolies from Jabalpur were sent up for the Hilika tea garden. The coolies on arrival at Dibrugarh complained that they have been sent up against their will. The statements of these coolies have been sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Jabalpur for enquiry, but no reply has yet been received. There were also four cases which referred to four batches of Nepali coolies recruited from Darjeeling, who repudiated their contracts on arrival and refused work. The cases are as follows:

(1) A batch of 9 Nepali coolies recruited by Mr. Willis, of Darjeeling, for the Rowmari tea garden in the Lakhimpur district, struck work when they arrived on the garden, and when brought up for trial, alleged that they had been recruited as sepoys, and not as tea garden coolies. They stated that they objected at Dhubri to come up as coolies, but were told that as they were recruited at the garden expense, they must go on. They were ordered to go back to the garden, but refused, and were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment each under section 171 of Act I of 1882. The case was referred to the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, who could give no information regarding the manner in which the coolies were recruited, as they were not placed before any magistrate there, but regarded it as improbable that any representation was made to them that they were to be enlisted as sepoys. The manager of the garden reported later on that the coolies were fairly contented.

(2) Two Nepalis, a man and his wife, were brought up for the Chalkhowa tea estate. They executed contracts before the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta. On arrival at the garden, they complained that they had been brought up under false pretences; the man alleging that he was told that he would be employed as a gunkeeper with a *sahib*, and his wife as an *ayah*. The manager proved by the evidence of three other coolies who came up in the same batch with them, that they executed the contracts before the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, and their allegations appeared to be false. The contracts were therefore enforced against them, they being imprisoned for seven days. The man afterwards died in the charitable hospital, and the contract of his wife was cancelled under section 122 of Act I of 1882.

(3) Fifteen Nepali coolies arrived in June 1891 for the Talup tea estate. These coolies, also recruited by Mr. Willis of Darjeeling, repudiated their contracts on arrival at the depôt, and refused to proceed to the garden. They alleged that they had been told they would be employed as sepoys on the Manipur expedition, and would be paid at the rate of Rs. 10 a woman and Rs. 12 a man. They further stated that they had objected at Dhubri, but were brought up forcibly. Mr. Willis, who was present, denied the charge. The Deputy Commissioner ordered the coolies to proceed to the garden pending enquiries at Dhubri and Darjeeling. They at first refused to go, but afterwards went to the garden.

The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára recommended cancelment of the contracts of these coolies, as they objected to be sent up as coolies. Two of these people died on the garden, and the rest were sick, and did not work. The Deputy Commissioner permitted the manager to cancel their agreements by mutual consent, as they were not physically unfit, but some of the coolies deserted before this could be done.

(4) Twenty-six Nepali coolies, recruited by the same contractor, who came up for the Assam Railway and Trading Company's collieries in August last, refused to work in the mines, and complained that they had been brought up under false pretences and repudiated their contracts. They deserted from Margherita, and were met by the Deputy Commissioner on the line of rail as he was on his way to Margherita, and were ordered to return. This they refused to do, and the Deputy Commissioner accordingly caused them to be arrested and sent back under police escort. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reported that he himself had the contracts explained to these men, and that they all understood where they were going to and what they would have to do. The coolies have all, it is believed, since deserted, except two whose contracts were cancelled at the request of the Agent and General Manager of the Railway Company under section 122 of Act I of 1882, and who were sent back to their country.

It may be noted that all these Nepalis have been recruited by one contractor, and that they have in almost every instance repudiated their contracts and given great trouble. In accordance with a suggestion made by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling has agreed to insist on the contractor concerned producing his coolies before a magistrate. Another class of coolies who are reported as having given trouble are Rewa coolies recruited at Jabalpur by the *arkatis* of the Labour District Supply Association.

The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice from the Report of the Collector of Ganjam on Inland Emigration from that district that although in 1890 there were a good many complaints of kidnapping, in 1891 such complaints were few in number, and none were substantiated. The report proceeds to say that enquiries made show that the emigrants proceed to Assam cheerfully, having learned from returned emigrants the nature of the work and the prospect of profit.

CHAPTER II.

LABOUR FORCE.

13. The table below shows the additions to, and deductions from, the total labour force of the province during the year 1891 :

Statistics of the labour force.

Labour force remaining at the end of the year 1890 (column 2 of statement)	408,140
ADDITIONS—	
Imported by contractors or garden sardárs, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4, and 5 of statement) ...	49,908
Local labour contracts entered into under sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement)	19,313
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement)	6,370
Deserters recaptured (column 9 of statement)...	483
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement) ...	16,482
Otherwise obtained (column 12 of statement)	20,471
Births	11,557
Total	124,584
DEDUCTIONS—	
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement)	4,383
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement)	52,267
Deaths (column 18 of statement)	15,832
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	12,748
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement) ...	9,278
Contracts cancelled under sections 111, 140, or 177, Act I of 1882 (column 23 of statement) ...	18
Ditto ditto „ 122 (column 24 of statement) ...	643
Contracts redeemed under section 142 („ 28 „ „) ...	6
„ dissolved by mutual consent („ 29 „ „) ...	138
Total	95,313
Net increase during the year	29,271
Grand total at the close of the year	437,411

The above figures show that the total of the labour force in the province at the close of the year under report was 437,411, or 7·1 per cent. in excess of the figures at the close of the previous year. This result was of course due to the larger importations made during the year 1891.

Mean strength of the labour force.

14. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning and end of each of the last three years and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1891 :

Class of labourers.	1st January 1889.	1st January 1890.	1st January 1891.	1st July 1891.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1891.	31st December 1891.	Mean strength for the second half-year.
Act adults	88,311	97,270	101,904	109,982	105,943	111,669	110,825
Non-Act ... Adults ...	133,901	142,424	147,453	161,045	154,249	158,183	159,614
Non-Act ... Children ...	132,054	150,774	158,783	164,494	161,638	167,559	166,026
Total	354,266	390,468	408,140	435,521	421,830	437,411	436,466

District figures of the labour force.

15. The details of the labour force of each district showing the variations of strength during the year 1891 are given below :

District.	1st January 1891.	31st December 1891.	Percentage of total provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	99,856	102,324	23·3	+2,468	+2·4
Sylhet	82,717	90,763	20·7	+8,046	+9·7
Total Surma Valley	182,573	193,087	44·1	+10,514	+5·7
Kámrúp	3,012	3,611	·8	+599	+19·0
Darrang	43,271	47,314	10·8	+4,043	+9·3
Nowgong	15,349	16,422	3·7	+1,073	+6·9
Sibságar	91,234	96,426	22·0	+5,192	+5·6
Lakhimpur	72,701	80,551	18·4	+7,850	+10·7
Total Assam Valley	225,567	244,324	55·9	+18,757	+8·3
Grand total	408,140	437,411	100·0	+29,271	+7·1

The percentage of increase for the province generally thus advanced from 4·5 in the previous year to 7·1 in the year under report. In the Surma Valley the percentage of increase advanced from 3·3 in the previous year to 5·7, and in the Assam Valley from 5·4 to 8·3.

16. The nationality and sex of the adult labour force at the beginning and end of the year under report are shown in the following table :

Nationality and sex of the adult labour force.

Nationality.	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men ...	8,714	9,055	19,765	20,741	28,479	29,776	21·8
	Women	8,292	8,791	19,118	20,054	27,410	28,845	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	4,006	4,902	14,463	16,118	18,469	21,020	14·9
	Women	2,799	3,569	13,018	15,290	15,817	18,859	
Behar	Men ...	3,133	3,882	5,693	6,363	8,826	10,245	7·0
	Women	2,462	3,007	4,868	5,567	7,330	8,574	
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	35,274	36,860	31,100	32,863	66,374	69,723	49·1
	Women	30,679	32,863	28,162	29,728	58,841	62,591	
Nepal	Men ...	37	74	113	137	150	211	0·1
	Women	19	18	74	99	93	117	
Madras	Men ...	1,659	2,445	1,083	1,382	2,742	3,827	2·8
	Women	1,433	2,157	1,120	1,383	2,553	3,540	
Bombay ...	Men ...	9	39	135	168	144	207	0·2
	Women	10	35	131	159	141	194	
Assam	Men ...	2,516	2,714	6,654	6,121	9,170	8,835	4·1
	Women	831	1,232	1,873	1,927	2,704	3,159	
Orissa	Men ...	19	28	45	45	64	73	...
	Women	12	18	38	38	50	56	
Total	Men ...	55,367	59,979	79,051	83,938	134,418	143,917	...
	Women	46,537	51,690	68,402	74,245	114,939	125,935	
Grand total ...	.....	101,904	111,669	147,453	158,183	249,357	269,852	...

N.B.—The differences between the entries in columns 6 and 7 and those in columns 6 and 8 of the statement embodied in paragraph 17 of the report for 1890, are due to causes explained at foot of the statement at the end of this report.

The proportion of Act, non-Act, and all coolies belonging to each nationality is shown below :

	1890.	1891.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act labourers.	Total.
Bengal	22·4	15·96	25·79	21·8
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	20·2	7·59	19·85	14·9
Behar		6·17	7·54	7·0
Chota Nagpur	50·3	62·44	39·57	49·1
Nepal	0·1	·08	·15	0·1
Madras	2·1	4·12	1·75	2·8
Bombay	0·1	·07	·21	0·2
Assam	4·8	3·53	5·09	4·1
Orissa	...	·04	·05	...
Total	100·	100·	100·	100·

17. The mean strength in each district for each half-year and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertions are calculated on these figures :

Mean strength of labour force in each district.

District.	Act.			Non-Act.						Total annual strength.		
				Adults.			Children.					
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First year-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar	8,020	7,399	7,709	48,812	50,554	49,683	44,634	44,747	44,690	101,466	102,700	102,083
Sylhet	8,192	7,646	7,919	44,010	46,634	45,322	33,613	35,557	34,585	85,815	89,838	87,826
Kámrúp ..	745	842	793	1,429	1,557	1,493	1,152	1,227	1,190	3,326	3,626	3,476
Darrang ..	20,116	21,857	20,986	11,257	11,266	11,261	13,405	13,677	13,541	44,778	46,800	45,789
Nowgong ..	3,488	3,770	3,629	7,017	7,095	7,056	5,654	5,830	5,742	16,159	16,695	16,427
Sibsagar ..	36,385	37,785	37,085	21,576	21,799	21,687	36,223	37,195	36,709	94,184	96,779	95,841
Lakhimpur ..	28,997	31,525	30,261	20,148	20,708	20,428	26,956	27,793	27,373	76,101	80,026	78,063
Total	105,943	110,825	108,384	154,249	159,614	156,931	161,638	166,026	163,832	421,830	436,466	429,148

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

18. The number of contracts executed under section 111 of the Act increased from 16,715 in the previous year to 18,256, or by 9·2 per cent., while the number of local contracts executed under section 112 of the Act in the presence of the Inspector advanced from 698 to 1,057, or by 51·4 per cent. In addition to the above, 12,910 contracts were executed at Dhubri under section 111 of the Act, against 8,130 in the previous year, and 3,906 were entered into in the recruiting districts, against 4,908 in 1890. Thus the total number of contracts executed during the year under report, whether in the districts of recruitment, at Dhubri, or in the labour districts was 36,129, against 30,451 in the preceding year. These figures do not include contracts under Act XIII of 1859.

Number of contracts made.

19. The following table shows the sex and nationality of the labourers who entered into local contracts, district by district :

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality.									Total of columns 3 and 4.
				Bengal.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Behar.	Chota Nagpur.	Nepal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Assam.	Orissa.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	Men	491	107	152	215	70	146	..	4	5	6	..	598
	Women	409	66	117	156	67	120	..	6	7	2	..	475
	Total of 1891	*900*	*173*	*269*	*371*	*137*	*266*	..	*10*	*12*	*8*	..	*1,073*
	„ „ 1890	696	63	274	316		149	2	10	3	5	..	759
Sylhet	Men	1,197	....	128	420	217	180	..	249	1	1	1	1,197
	Women	943	2	177	268	102	163	..	235	..	....	..	945
	Total of 1891	*2,140*	*2*	*305*	*688*	*319*	*343*	..	*484*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*2,142*
	„ „ 1890	1,770	....	242	479		617	..	532	..	....	..	1,770
Kámrúp	Men	16	1	3	....	....	1	..	..	..	13	..	17
	Women	4	....	....	....	....	1	..	..	..	3	..	4
	Total of 1891	*20*	*1*	*3*	....	....	*2*	..	..	..	*16*	..	*21*
	„ „ 1890	3	1	....	....		....	..	..	..	4	..	4
Darrang	Men	2,082	73	273	78	73	724	..	10	..	997	..	2,155
	Women	1,732	18	237	41	50	785	..	6	..	631	..	1,750
	Total of 1891	*3,814*	*91*	*510*	*119*	*123*	*1,509*	..	*16*	..	*1,628*	..	*3,905*
	„ „ 1890	3,344	141	521	318		1,537	1	11	..	1,097	..	3,485
Nowgong	Men	190	9	29	....	7	161	..	..	..	2	..	199
	Women	109	1	25	....	2	83	..	..	..	....	..	110
	Total of 1891	*299*	*10*	*54*	....	*9*	*244*	..	..	..	*2*	..	*309*
	„ „ 1890	127	20	16	10		110	..	..	..	11	..	147
Sibságar	Men	4,571	326	869	153	453	2,660	7	29	11	715	..	4,897
	Women	3,417	231	792	120	389	2,191	..	43	1	112	..	3,648
	Total of 1891	*7,988*	*557*	*1,661*	*273*	*842*	*4,851*	*7*	*72*	*12*	*827*	..	*8,545*
	„ „ 1890	8,400	392	1,658	1,288		4,831	29	25	5	954	..	8,792
Lakhimpur	Men	1,849	131	253	26	51	1,623	1	11	..	15	..	1,980
	Women	1,246	92	210	14	42	1,062	..	3	..	7	..	1,338
	Total of 1891	*3,095*	*223*	*463*	*40*	*93*	*2,685*	*1*	*14*	..	*22*	..	*3,318*
	„ „ 1890	2,375	81	267	97		2,051	..	15	..	26	..	2,4 6
	Grand total of 1891 ..	*18,256*	*1,057*	*3,265*	*1,491*	*1,523*	*9,900*	*8*	*596*	*25*	*2,504*	*1*	*19,313*
	„ „ „ 1890 ..	16,715	698	2,978	2,508		9,195	32	595	8	2,097	..	17,413

In all districts, except Sibságar, an increase took place in the extent to which resort was had to section 111 of the Act, and in the case of section 112 the only districts which show a decrease, as compared with the previous year, are Darrang and Nowgong.

Details of local contracts.

20. The following table gives details of local contracts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the terms of the contracts. This table does not include contracts executed at Dhubri, figures relating to which will be given at the close of the paragraph.

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			New.	Time-expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two and a half years.	3	4	Under five years.	5
Cachar	900	173	730	343	....	....	....	87	209	....	445	..	....	382
Sylhet	2,140	2	1,602	540	....	....	....	404	204	....	1,489	..	....	45
Kámrúp	20	1	....	5	....	16	....	19	....	....	1	..	....	1
Darrang	3,814	91	18	2,409	....	1,478	105	1,498	951	....	737	27	....	587
Nowgong	299	10	14	234	61	....	....	208	39*	2†	51	3	....	6
Sibságar	8,169	557	1,604	6,503	....	619	72	2,762	2,653	41	2,921	56	111	110
Lakhimpur	3,095	223	353	2,943	....	22	1	1,999	859	....	189	28	....	242
Total..	18,437‡	1,057	4,321	12,977	61	2,135	178	6,927	4,915	43	5,833	114	111	1,373
Total for 1890	16,875	698	3,784	11,386	12	2,291	341	6,067	4,146	25	5,965	207	66	767

Under the head of section 111 the only noticeable point is, that in spite of the larger importation of labour, which characterised the year under report, Sibságar shows a decrease in the number of contracts executed under this section (from 8,560 in the previous year to 8,169). In all other districts there was a more or less decided increase. The figures under section 112 do not call for remark.

As regards the class of labourers who entered into local contracts, there was a considerable increase under the head of time-expired labourers; but, on the other hand, the number of local labourers who contracted was somewhat smaller than in the preceding year.

The figures relating to the duration of contracts do not require comment, except in regard to the considerable increase which took place under contracts for five years. This increase was common to all districts except Nowgong and Sibságar, and was especially marked in Cachar, where the number of five-year contracts increased from 28 in the previous year to 382 in the year under report. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar explains that the whole of these five-year contracts were entered into by new coolies.

As regards the 29,056 contracts executed at Dhubri, the figures for 1890 and 1891 stand as follows:

Year.	Three-year contracts.			Five-year contracts.			Total contracts.		
	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.
1890 ...	1,719	921	2,640	6,411	2,402	8,813	8,130	3,323	11,453
1891 ...	2,348	1,144	3,492	10,562	3,549	14,111	12,910	4,693	17,603

Although five-year contracts constituted from 96 to 98 per cent. of the total number of contracts executed at Dhubri in the years 1887 and 1888, the proportion has recently shown signs of decreasing. In 1889 the proportion was still high, being 98·3 per cent., but in 1890 it fell to 78·8 and in 1891 to 81·8 per cent. The reason for this is that fewer "jungly" coolies and more coolies from the North-Western Provinces, Central Provinces, and Behar are now recruited. These latter often refuse to contract for more than three years on arrival at Dhubri. The recruitment also of Ganjami coolies began in 1890, who are registered under Madras Act, V of 1866, and rarely agree to serve for more than three years.

* This includes 23 contracts for more than one year and less than two.

† For two and a half years.

‡ The difference between this entry and that in column 3 of the table in paragraph 19 showing nationality of labourers entering into local contracts and in column 6 of the statement at the end of the report is in the case of Sibságar, and is attributed to the fact that 181 contracts executed in the gardens and sent for registration towards the end of the year were omitted by the managers from their returns.

21. The following table shows the extent to which contracts executed locally have been verified during the year :

Verification of contracts.

1	2				3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
District.	Number and year of contracts under section 111 (excluding those executed at Dhubri) remaining unverified at beginning of the year under report.				Number of contracts executed during the year under section 111.	Total of columns 2 and 3.	Number of such contracts executed after the last inspection where the garden has been inspected during the year under report.	Total number of contracts for verification (column 4, *minus* column 5).	Number of contracts susceptible of verification (column 6, *minus* total of column 13).	Number of contracts of the year under report susceptible of verification, column 3 — (column 5 *minus* total of subcolumn for year under report in column 13).	Number and year of contract. (a) Verified.				
	1888.	1889.	1890.	Total.							1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	Total.
Cachar	..	75	361	436	900	1,336	122	1,214	1,065	664	..	63	338	664	1,065
Sylhet	..	3	618	621	2,140	2,761	1,089	1,672	1,411	959	..	3	448	955	1,406
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	20	20	10	10	3	3	..	..	..	3	3
Darrang	..	..	1,247	1,247	3,814	5,061	1,651	3,410	3,351	2,129	..	..	1,215	2,092	3,307
Nowgong	..	..	9	9	299	308	20	288	213	205	..	..	8	205	213
Sibságar	277	403	3,927	4,607	8,169	12,776	2,143	10,633	9,100	5,819	126	140	2,477	5,491	8,234
Lakhimpur	..	..	908	908	3,095	4,003	406	3,597	3,529	2,640	..	..	889	2,640	3,529
Total of 1891	277	481	7,070	7,828	18,437†	26,265	5,441	20,824	18,672	12,419	126	206	5,375	12,050	17,757
„ „ 1890	762§	4,007	..	4,769	16,875	21,644	5,884	15,760	12,245	....‡	166§	2,391	9,639	....	11,593

District.	9					10	11	12	13													
	Number and year of contract—*contd.* (b) Cancelled.					Total (of totals under column 9).	Percentage of contracts verified or cancelled (total of column 10 on total of column 7).	Percentage of contracts of year under report, verified or cancelled (total of subcolumns for year under report in column 9 on total of column 8).	Remaining unverified (of those incapable of verification) on account of													
									Expiry of the term of contract.			Death or desertion of the labourer.			Absence of the labourer on the date of inspection on recruiting work.			Sickness.			Total.		
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	Total.				Of previous years.	Of 1891.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1891.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1891.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1891.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1891.	Total.
Cachar	..	..	..	..	..	1,065	100·	100·	16	..	16	30	19	49	30	54	84	..	..	..	76	73	149*
Sylhet	..	..	1	4	5	1,411	100·	100·	..	..	..	136	60	196	33	32	65	..	..	..	169	92	261
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	3	100·	100·	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	2	2	..	3	3	..	7	7
Darrang	..	..	7	37	44	3,351	100·	100·	..	12	12	..	35	35	..	12	12	..	..	..	..	59	59*
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	213	100·	100·	1	68	69	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	74	75
Sibságar	..	..	1	7	8	8,242	90·5	94·5	901	7	908	114	101	215	311	99	410	..	..	..	1,326	207	1,533
Lakhimpur	..	..	..	..	..	3,529	100·	100·	..	..	..	13	9	22	4	35	39	2	5	7	19	49	68
Total of 1891. ..	..	..	9	48	57	17,814	95·4	97·4	918	87	1,005	293	232	525	378	234	612	2	8	10	1,591	561	2,152
„ „ 1890 ..	..	..	11	13	..	24	11,620	73·7	82·3	1,244			410			1,861					3,515		

This return shows a substantial improvement in the work of verification of local contracts, but the Chief Commissioner feels bound to observe that the correctness of the percentages shown in columns 11 and 12 is open to doubt. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India,‖ an effort has been made to calculate the percentage of verifications on the number of contracts susceptible of verification only, a deduction being made of all cases which could not be enquired into owing to the expiry of the contracts, the death or desertion of the labourers, or their absence on recruiting work, or for other causes. The result of this change in the system of calculation is that all districts except Sibságar show that no contracts susceptible of verification were left unverified at the close of the year under report. The Chief Commissioner would be glad to believe that this was the case, but fears that such a satisfactory result is at least doubtful. It is, however, scarcely necessary to pursue the matter in connection with the present report, as Mr. Ward has recently submitted to the Government of India proposals, one object of which is to ensure the complete performance of the work of verifying local contracts.

‖ Paragraph 9 of the Resolution on the Assam Immigration Report for 1890.

* Correct information not available.

† See explanation at foot of the statement showing details of local contracts.

‡ Information not available.

§ These figures include the figures of 1887 (6 and 1) respectively.

22. The following table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such contracts reported by managers and the number of contracts cancelled or which terminated in other ways :

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

District.	Number shown in garden returns as time-expired.	Number of time expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, section 120.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 129.	Number cancelled by magistrate under section 140.	Number redeemed under section 142	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar	3,391	3,349	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	38
Sylhet	2,771	2,764	1*	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	2
Kámrúp	35	12	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2
Darrang	3,615	3,615	9	.....	23	.....	.....	.....	35
Nowgong	374	264	.....	.....	51	.....	.....	.....	5†
Sibságar	9,619	7,602	8	.....	144	.....	.....	3	9
Lakhimpur	4,952	4,952	.....	.....	414	.....	.....	2	47‡
Total of 1891	24,757	22,558	18	.....	643	.....	.....	6	138
„ „ 1890	20,504	17,188	15	16	320	1	55	17	73

There was some improvement in the extent to which managers complied, during the year under report, with the requirements of section 141 of the Act, but the results in some districts, *e.g.*, Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Sibságar, were far from satisfactory. Section 141 of the Act renders it obligatory on employers to give to the Inspector notice in writing of the determination of labour contracts within one month from the date of such determination, and the Chief Commissioner fully accepts the opinion expressed by the Government of India in reviewing the Provincial Report for the year 1890, that strong action should be taken in any cases in which managers fail to report the expiry of contracts, as required by the above section. From the district reports it appears open to doubt whether the importance of this matter is sufficiently appreciated by district officers in all cases. Thus the Deputy Commissioner of Kámrúp contents himself with observing—

Managers have been irregular in submitting returns of time-expired contracts under section 141. Their attention will be called to the matter.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang remarks :

Section 141 is not complied with strictly. Some managers report expiries every month, but some send in their reports with their half-yearly returns. I am never asked, however, to give coolies' certificates, and have not thought it necessary to prosecute managers under section 163.

The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong reports :

There were 374 contracts shown in the garden returns as expired, but the notices of expiry of contracts were received for 264 contracts only. During the year under report I have issued again *takids* to report the remaining cases as soon as possible. Some of the managers are indifferent to office reminders ; they do not send out the usual notice of expiry until these expiries are detected in the half-yearly returns.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar, where the irregularity was specially observable, merely says that there is improvement as compared with the previous year, and that he has again called the attention of all the managers in the district to the necessity of reporting all time-expired contracts. The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur reports that though all the contracts which expired during the year were reported, this was only done in many cases after much correspondence regarding the omissions. Upon this point the Chief Commissioner would observe that there can be no possible reason why notice of the determination of labour contracts should not be regularly and punctually given to the Inspector as required by the law, and it is the duty of Deputy Commissioners to see that this is done, and that, if it is not done, prosecutions are undertaken against those employers who fail to comply with the law.

* A minor.

† All dissolved with a view to renewal.

‡ Eleven contracts were dissolved on marriage and renewal of contracts.

The figures for cancelment of contracts show a considerable increase under the heads of (1) Contracts cancelled by the Inspector for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act, (2) Contracts cancelled by mutual consent. Under the former of these heads the increase is due to the results in the Assam Valley, the figures being as follows :

District.	Contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act.		Contracts cancelled by mutual consent.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Cachar	25	...	4	38
Sylhet	51	10	2	2
Kámrúp	1	1	3	2
Darrang	8	23	11	35
Nowgong	5	51	6	5
Sibságar	85	144	35	9
Lakhimpur	145	414	12	47
Total	320	643	73	138

It will be seen that the number of contracts cancelled on the ground of the permanent incapacity of the labourers increased considerably in all districts of the Assam Valley except Kámrúp, the increase being especially marked in Lakhimpur. The Chief Commissioner cannot find any sufficient explanation of this result, unless it be the fact that contractors' coolies of bad physique were supplied in larger numbers than during the previous year.

The extent to which the second paragraph of section 121 and section 170 of Act I of 1882 are acted upon.

23. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that no case occurred during the year under the second paragraph of section 121, and that as regards section 170, although 11 managers sent in lists of absentees, in no case was the Inspector asked to endorse the days of absence on the contracts. He adds :

In practice I believe some managers get coolies to work off absences without their being endorsed on the contracts, and so long as the coolies do this willingly, I do not see that there can be any objections. Most managers, however, disregard these absences, treating their contracts merely as a means to prevent and punish absconding.

In Sylhet no use was made of the provisions of section 121 or section 170 during the year under report, and the same was the case in Kámrúp. In Darrang 13 gardens submitted lists of absentees under section 170, and two managers requested the Inspector to endorse days of absence on some contracts. In Nowgong no use was apparently made of section 121, but monthly lists were sent in by some gardens under section 170. These lists were examined by the Inspector on his visits to the gardens, and, after necessary enquiry, the days of absence were endorsed on the contracts. In Sibságar no use was made of the provisions of section 121 ; but as regards section 170, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

Forty-eight gardens sent in the list of absentees under section 170, *viz.*,—

Sibságar	15
Jorhát	21
Golághát	12
	48

A tendency is being evidenced on the part of the employers to insist on the provisions of section 170 of Act I of 1882 being carried out by Inspectors. I have made a reference to the Commissioner on certain cases. If it be decided that a manager loses his remedy by not insisting on contracts being endorsed at the visits of inspection, it will very soon be the rule, and not the exception, to enforce section 170. A moment's consideration will show all that such a practice will involve. Managers do not insist on their rights, as coolies generally work off absent days without the Inspector's interference ; and I am of opinion that if the law were so worded that absent days could be endorsed at any time not less than a fixed period (say, two months) before the expiry of a contract, there would still be an adequate remedy with the employer, while the work of Inspectors would still remain light enough to be coped with.

In Lakhimpur no cases occurred under section 121. Fourteen gardens in the sadr subdivision sent in lists of absentees under section 170, but no manager insisted on the periods of absence being endorsed on contracts. In the case of one garden in the North Lakhimpur subdivision 176 contracts were endorsed under this section, the coolies having admitted the correctness of the periods added to their contracts.

Repatriation of labourers.

24. In Cachar no labourers were repatriated during the year under report. In Sylhet, of the 10 coolies whose contracts were cancelled on the ground of permanent incapacity, 5 coolies with their 6 children were repatriated at a cost to Government of Rs. 64-11-4 over and above their three months' wages paid by the managers. The rest remained on the gardens as dependents on their relatives. In Kámrúp, the labourer (a woman) whose contract was cancelled will be repatriated in due course. Owing to the fact of her being blind, it was necessary to wait until she could be taken charge of by a garden sardár. In the meantime she has been permitted to remain on the garden. Of the 23 coolies whose contracts were cancelled in Darrang, 21 were sent back to their homes and 2 absconded from the charitable dispensary, having probably found friends. In Nowgong, of the 51 labourers whose contracts were cancelled, 29 were sent back to their homes with the usual three months' wages, 21 were allowed at their own request to remain on the gardens with their relatives and friends, and 1 died before repatriation could be effected. Of the 144 coolies whose contracts were cancelled in Sibságar, 2 died and 14 remained in the district, 1 was sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur, and 122 were sent back to their homes with three months' wages, an aggregate sum of Rs. 178-1-9 having been paid by Government towards the cost of repatriation. In the case of 5 coolies no wages were paid, but the manager undertook to send them to their country. Of the 414 coolies whose contracts were cancelled in Lakhimpur, 260 were sent to their homes. In all cases in the Lakhimpur district the managers paid the usual three months' wages, amounting to Rs. 406-3, the difference of Rs. 1,026-9 between this and the actual expenses incurred being borne by the public funds. Besides these, a large number of children and three persons whose contracts were cancelled by mutual consent were also sent back to their country. In three cases disabled free labourers were repatriated at the expense of Government. The cost of sending down coolies whose contracts were cancelled by mutual consent was borne by the employers.

Wages.

25. The following two statements give particulars of the wages earned by Act labourers and non-Act coolies, including children, in each subdivision. They are based on figures obtained during inspections of gardens. In the second table the average and highest wages are given, both in the manufacturing and the non-manufacturing seasons.

			Monthly wages.	
			Average.	Highest.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	Act ...	Men ...	4 9 2	8 2 6
		Women ...	3 4 6	7 3 0
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 12 9	9 3 5
		Women ...	3 10 3	7 6 4
		Children ...	1 9 7	4 3 3
North Sylhet ...	Act ...	Men ...	3 12 4	5 6 3
		Women ...	2 12 6	4 0 4
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 4 5	6 4 6
		Women ...	3 4 8	5 8 6
		Children ...	1 9 5	3 10 0
South „ ...	Act ...	Men ...	4 2 9	5 10 4
		Women ...	3 4 8	4 6 3
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 13 8	6 13 4
		Women ...	3 10 8	4 14 5
		Children ...	1 12 9	3 7 7
Karimganj ...	Act ...	Men ...	3 13 2	4 15 2
		Women ...	2 8 6	3 11 3
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 6 0	8 5 1
		Women ...	3 6 4	6 9 10
		Children ...	2 6 11	5 2 3
Habiganj ...	Act ...	Men ...	3 0 1	10 13 4
		Women ...	2 11 5	8 3 7
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	3 5 9	14 1 5
		Women ...	2 11 9	12 13 7
		Children ...	1 4 8	6 4 0
Kámrúp ...	Act ...	Men ...	3 13 2	6 6 10
		Women ...	3 5 0	6 6 2
	Non-Act ...	Men ...	4 4 11	8 1 3
		Women ...	3 12 6	7 13 1
		Children ...	2 7 0	4 9 2

				Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Highest. Rs. a. p.
Darrang	Act	Men		4 15 9	11 8 0
		Women		4 10 2	17 4 0
	Non-Act	Men		4 9 10	12 0 0
		Women		4 7 2	17 4 0
		Children		3 11 4	8 2 0
Nowgong	Act	Men		4 12 10	10 12 0
		Women		3 14 7	10 8 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 4 11	13 15 0
		Women		4 12 0	13 5 9
		Children		2 14 8	8 13 6
Sibságar	Act	Men		4 15 6	15 5 6
		Women		3 15 1	10 8 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 0 11	16 0 0
		Women		4 11 11	15 3 3
		Children		2 6 7	8 6 6
Lakhimpur	Act	Men		5 1 0	15 4 5
		Women		4 1 0	17 2 8
	Non-Act	Men		6 15 10	21 0 0
		Women		5 7 9	20 13 0
		Children		2 12 11	8 0 0

				Non-manufacturing, or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Highest. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing, or rainy season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Highest. Rs. a. p.
Cachar	Act	Men		4 3 8	6 9 9	4 10 9	10 1 1
		Women		2 10 7	5 12 3	3 9 10	8 3 5
	Non-Act	Men		4 12 3	8 2 5	5 13 2	11 11 7
		Women		3 5 2	6 14 4	4 8 9	9 7 2
		Children		1 4 7	3 7 2	2 2 9	5 3 6
North Sylhet	Act	Men		3 12 4	5 4 4	3 12 5	5 9 3
		Women		2 11 4	3 15 5	2 13 11	4 1 4
	Non-Act	Men		4 4 1	6 10 1	4 4 9	7 5 11
		Women		3 2 5	4 11 3	3 6 11	6 5 10
		Children		1 4 2	3 6 6	1 15 8	3 13 11
South „	Act	Men		3 14 7	5 9 9	4 7 0	5 11 0
		Women		2 15 5	4 5 6	3 10 0	4 7 0
	Non-Act	Men		4 10 3	6 15 9	5 11 1	6 10 11
		Women		3 5 0	4 9 1	4 0 5	5 3 10
		Children		1 10 5	3 4 7	1 15 2	3 10 8
Karimganj	Act	Men		3 7 10	5 1 10	3 2 7	4 12 6
		Women		2 10 8	3 12 3	2 6 5	3 10 4
	Non-Act	Men		4 8 9	7 1 11	4 3 3	8 8 4
		Women		3 5 4	5 3 1	3 7 4	8 8 8
		Children		2 7 9	4 9 9	2 6 1	5 10 9
Habiganj	Act	Men		2 10 2	13 1 3	3 13 8	8 9 6
		Women		2 12 10	6 4 9	2 12 11	10 2 6
	Non-Act	Men		3 4 10	14 8 6	4 2 8	13 11 4
		Women		2 1 3	8 11 6	3 3 1	17 1 9
		Children		0 10 6	4 5 9	1 7 1	9 2 3
Kámrúp	Act	Men		3 11 8	6 1 1	3 14 7	6 6 10
		Women		2 14 3	5 0 2	3 11 9	6 6 2
	Non-Act	Men		4 1 10	6 10 4	4 8 0	8 1 3
		Women		3 2 11	5 1 5	4 6 0	7 13 1
		Children		2 4 0	3 7 8	2 10 0	4 9 2
Darrang	Act	Men		4 11 4	11 6 6	5 2 1	11 8 0
		Women		3 7 11	14 5 0	4 5 3	17 4 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 3 9	12 0 0	5 9 9	11 11 0
		Women		3 1 3	10 6 9	4 0 5	17 4 0
		Children		1 15 3	6 1 2	2 10 6	8 2 0
Nowgong	Act	Men		4 3 1	8 4 0	5 6 7	10 12 0
		Women		3 2 7	5 12 2	4 10 7	10 8 0
	Non-Act	Men		4 13 8	10 11 0	5 12 3	13 15 0
		Women		3 10 3	5 15 0	5 13 9	13 5 9
		Children		2 5 11	4 10 0	3 7 5	8 13 6
Sibságar	Act	Men		4 9 4	13 0 0	5 5 7	15 5 6
		Women		3 8 11	10 0 0	4 5 4	10 8 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 3 4	13 0 0	4 14 6	16 0 0
		Women		3 5 7	10 0 0	4 2 3	15 3 3
		Children		2 3 5	7 0 0	2 9 9	8 6 6
Lakhimpur	Act	Men		4 8 8	9 15 0	5 9 5	15 14 5
		Women		3 9 3	10 9 0	4 8 9	17 2 8
	Non-Act	Men		6 9 8	21 0 0	7 6 7	20 0 0
		Women		4 12 11	15 0 0	6 2 7	20 13 0
		Children		2 7 9	5 0 0	3 2 2	8 0 0

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES, INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

Offences committed by tea garden population.

26. The following figures show the offences committed by the tea garden population during each of the past two years under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882, respectively (excluding desertions, which are separately dealt with) :

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882.																									
			Section 151, garden sardár failing to report himself.		Section 153, garden sardár failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employers arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183, enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.		Total.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Cachar	58	71	..	1	..	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	5	1	..	16	7
Sylhet	23	12	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	11	..	..	9	11
Kámrúp ..	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Darrang ..	10	2	7	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	37	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	20	42
Nowgong ..	6	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	13	6
Sibságar ..	55	37	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	5	..	..	..	..	1	1	14	13	..	..	34	21
Lakhimpur ..	17	6	7	7	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	24	..	.	..	..	2	..	10	9	..	..	23	40
Total	174	134	20	18	..	..	9	..	..	..	1	..	34	67	1	..	..	..	3	1	47	41	1	..	116	127

The above figures show that while offences under Act XIII of 1859 have decreased, as compared with the previous year, in every district except Cachar, offences under Act I of 1882 have increased in the districts of Sylhet, Darrang, and Lakhimpur, and have decreased in Cachar, Kámrúp, Nowgong, and Sibságar.

As regards Act XIII of 1859, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that of the 71 coolies convicted 65 were ordered to perform their contracts, and presumably did so, as nothing further was heard of these cases, while 6 of the accused were punished, 2 with two and 4 with one week's rigorous imprisonment each. Of the 12 coolies convicted in Sylhet, 9 were ordered to perform their contracts, 2 were imprisoned for two weeks each, and 1 for twenty days. In Kámrúp 3 coolies were ordered to fulfil their agreements, and 1 was sentenced to five days' imprisonment. The 2 coolies accused under the Act in Darrang were ordered to perform their agreements. In Nowgong 1 coolie was sentenced to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 10, and in the second case the coolie was ordered to work out his agreement. Of the 37 persons convicted in Sibságar, 25 were ordered to fulfil their contracts, 8 were ordered to pay their advances, 3 to pay for the work to be done, and one man who was ordered by the Court to complete his work according to agreement, but who, instead of so doing, absconded, was punished with rigorous imprisonment for one month. In Lakhimpur the coolies were in all cases ordered to return to the gardens and fulfil the terms of their contracts. As regards Act I of 1882, a considerable increase is observable in the cases under section 171 (absence without cause) in the Darrang and Lakhimpur districts, but it is scarcely necessary to mention the punishments inflicted. None of the cases possessed any special interest ; and so far as the Chief Commissioner is able to judge from the district reports, in no case was the punishment inflicted unduly severe.

The statement in the next page shows the offences against the general criminal law committed during each of the past two years by the population of tea gardens.

District.	Penal Code.																				
	Adultery.	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit culpable homicide.	Murder.	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass.	Lurking house trespass.	House trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Criminal misappropriation.	Criminal breach of trust.	Laying false complaint.
Cachar	..	27	28	..	..	..	24	2	12	34	5	..	4	..	..	4	..	..	2	..	1	..
Sylhet	..	4	41	..	2	5	11	11	2	13	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	2	..
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	11	18	..	..	..	1	1	1	14	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibságar	1	5	..	2	..	..	14	11	2	53	..	4	4	2	..	15	..	2	2	..	2	..
Lakhimpur	..	..	19	..	..	2	16	2	3	46	1	..	9	..	..	4	4	..	4	5	2	1
Total of 1891	1	47	106	2	2	7	66	27	22	160	10	11	19	2	..	25	5	2	11	5	7	1
„ „ 1890	..	71	65	6	6	9	55	27	20	118	3	20	10	9	3	39	..	2	3	..	6	6

District.	Penal Code—*continued.*																			
	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Unnatural offences.	Insult.	Wrongful confinement.	Offences against public tranquillity	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	Dealing with fire, &c., so as to endanger human life, section 285.	False prosecution.	Defamation, section 500.	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Forgery.	Enticing away a married woman.	Kidnapping.	Rape.	Total.	Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
Cachar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	144	27	..	171
Sylhet	2	1	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	1	13	125
Kámrúp	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3
Darrang	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	..	4	55
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	10
Sibságar	1	..	..	6	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	134	1	5	140
Lakhimpur	..	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	16	26	166
Total of 1891	3	3	..	7	2	2	15	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	577	45	48	670
„ „ 1890	1	2	1	2	1	..	2	3	1	..	1	..	4	..	1	1	1	499	60	44	603

This table shows an increase of criminality in the districts of Sylhet, Kámrúp, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and a decrease in Cachar and Nowgong. The chief heads under which the increase occurred were 'Rioting' (from 65 to 106 cases), 'Assault' (from 55 to 66 cases), 'Theft' (from 118 to 160 cases), and 'Contempt of lawful authority' (from 2 to 15 cases). The decrease in cases under 'Unlawful assembly' (from 71 to 47) is satisfactory, but the Chief Commissioner regrets to notice the increase in the number of riots which occurred during the year under report. The cases of rioting are further noticed in Chapter VII of this report.

The cases of murder and culpable homicide, which occurred in the districts of Sylhet and Sibságar, do not call for special remark.

The following table, which includes cases of desertion, compares the ratio of convictions to tea garden population during the past two years :

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per cent. of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Cachar	55,463	57,392	394	330	152	132	38	40
Sylhet	50,198	53,241	139	176	101	135	72	76
Kámrúp ...	2,038	2,286	22	28	19	25	86	89
Darrang ...	29,699	32,247	171	292	157	279	91	95
Nowgong ...	10,020	10,685	83	38	56	25	67	65
Sibságar ...	56,225	58,772	402	407	268	274	66	67
Lakhimpur ...	46,467	50,689	401	458	330	371	82	81
Total	250,113	265,314	1,612	1,729	1,083	1,241	67	71

The increase in convictions in the Darrang district is noteworthy, and is explained by the increase which took place under the heads of 'Unlawful Assembly' 'Rioting', and 'Theft'. So far as the two former of these offences are concerned, this increase is commented upon in Chapter VII of this report.

Provincial and district figures for desertions.

27. The following table shows the number of adult desertions, district by district, for the past two years :

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non-Act.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Cachar	2,973	2,994	600	675	2,373	2,319	6·58	8·82	5·12	4·66	5·35	5·21
Sylhet	3,004	3,024	635	546	2,369	2,478	6·72	6·85	5·80	5·48	5·98	5·68
Kámrúp	158	195	80	75	78	120	11·98	9·46	5·66	8·10	7·75	8·58
Darrang	1,259	1,067	585	748	674	319	3 21	3·56	5·84	2·83	4 24	3·3
Nowgong	370	314	142	130	228	184	4·58	3·54	3·30	2·61	4·69	2·93
Sibságar	1,524	1,576	789	995	735	581	2·27	2·67	3·42	2·67	2·71	2·68
Lakhimpur	1,479	1,510	1,051	1,154	428	356	4·00	3·78	2·11	1·74	3·18	2·97
Total	10,767	10,680	3,882	4,323	6,885	6,357	3·82	3·97	4·62	4·05	4·30	4·02

The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that the general percentages of desertions show a decrease, though only small, in the case of every district except Kámrúp, with the result that the provincial percentage has fallen from 4·30 in the previous year to 4·02 in the year under report. Under the head of 'Act labourers', however, an increase in the number of desertions took place in the districts of Cachar, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and the provincial percentage, as regards this class of labourers, has slightly advanced (from 3·82 to 3·97). The larger importations of labour during the year under report naturally account for this increase in desertions.

Arrests and convictions.

28. The following table shows the number of desertions in each district, the number of warrants issued for the arrest of the deserters and the number of convictions obtained :

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested.					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar	675	90	16	61	6	...	83	81
Sylhet	546	151	12	26	.....	...	38	31
Kámrúp	75	8	.....	18	3	...	21	21
Darrang	748	206	90	127	.....	2	219	195
Nowgong ...	130	8	.....	20	1	1	22	20
Sibságar	995	103	67	166*	18	...	251	203
Lakhimpur ...	1,154	64	33	229	.....	...	262	246
Total of 1891 ...	4,323	630	218	647	28	3	896	797
„ „ 1890 ...	3,882	586	293	448	87	10	838	758

In a circular, dated the 5th February 1892, Deputy Commissioners and subdivisional officers were directed to embody in their reports full particulars of desertions and of the punishments inflicted for desertions from gardens on the unhealthy list, and further to be careful to exercise the greatest consideration in dealing with coolies who desert from unhealthy gardens under the influence of panic. These instructions have been fairly well observed by all Deputy Commissioners, and the present report contains, as a rule, full information regarding the gardens from which the desertions took place and the punishments inflicted.

Of 675 coolies who deserted in the Cachar district, 83 were arrested and 81 were convicted. Of these 81, 11 only belonged to unhealthy gardens. The punishments inflicted on the remaining 70 were as follows :—3 were imprisoned for two months, 1 for six weeks, 18 for one month, 34 for two weeks, 7 for one week, and 7 for one day only.

* Includes 3 voluntarily.

The total number of desertions from unhealthy gardens, that is, gardens on which the number of deaths during the year was 10 or more, and on which the death rate exceeded 7 per cent. in this district is given as 255 ; but of the coolies arrested in these cases, only 11 were convicted, the following being the punishments inflicted :—9 coolies were sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment, 1 to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment, and 1 to rigorous imprisonment for one week. On this subject the Deputy Commissioner observes :

Though several of the gardens from which desertions took place appear on the high mortality list this year, they are not, properly speaking, unhealthy. Small-pox, cholera, and influenza account for many gardens appearing in the high mortality list. A very small number of convictions were obtained. Many planters do not prosecute coolies for desertion except in a few cases where they think an example necessary. In this they are actuated partly by a wish to save themselves trouble, and in many cases also by disinclination to be hard on their coolies. In this I think they are right. A few prosecutions as examples do as well as a great many. Besides, few managers can spare twenty or thirty coolies for a month at a time, at all events in the busy season. With reference to the orders in the Chief Commissioner's Circular letter No. 700-19J., dated the 14th March 1891, it appears from the records of the eleven cases referred to above that all the accused pleaded guilty, and made no special statements as to the cause of desertion. In no single instance did the deserters allege the unhealthiness of the garden as an excuse for deserting.

Of 546 Act coolies who were returned as having deserted in the Sylhet district, 38 only were arrested and 31 were convicted, of whom 1 was imprisoned for one hour, 1 for one day, 2 for one week each, 1 for eight days, 13 for ten days each, 6 for two weeks each, 6 for three weeks, and 1 for one month. Of the 31 coolies thus convicted of desertion, 17 deserted from five gardens, of which 2 were unhealthy in 1890, 1 was unhealthy in 1891, and 2 were unhealthy both in 1890 and 1891. The coolies convicted of desertion from unhealthy gardens were sentenced as follows :—1 to one day's simple imprisonment, 11 to ten days' rigorous imprisonment, 4 to fourteen days' rigorous imprisonment, and 1 to rigorous imprisonment for three weeks. In the Kámrúp district of 75 Act coolies who deserted, 21 were arrested, the whole of whom were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment—2 for one week, 1 for ten days, 2 for two weeks, 9 for three weeks, 6 for one month, and one for six weeks. Of the 75 Act coolies who deserted, 60 are returned as having deserted from five unhealthy gardens. Of these 60, 18 were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment—2 for seven days, 1 for ten days, 9 for three weeks, 5 for one month, and 1 for six weeks. Of the five unhealthy gardens from which the desertions took place, one has been on the unhealthy list since 1888, three were unhealthy in 1890, and one was healthy in 1890, but appears on the unhealthy list for the year under report. Of the 748 Act coolies who deserted in the Darrang district, 219 were arrested and 195 were convicted, of whom all, with the exception of 15 who were ordered to return to the garden to fulfil their contracts (the manager not wishing them to be sent to prison), were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment as follows :—64 for one month, 10 for three weeks, 39 for two weeks, 38 for one week, and 29 for ten days. Of the total number who deserted, 191 are returned as having deserted from 15 unhealthy gardens, of these, 29 were convicted, of whom 16 were sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment, 5 to two weeks' imprisonment each, and 8 to one week's imprisonment each.

In connection with this matter the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang writes :

In none of these cases was it shown that desertion was in any way due to the unhealthiness of the garden. The unhealthiness of an estate is of course never pleaded as an excuse for desertions, but in trying coolies I always bear the fact of unhealthiness in mind.

In the Nowgong district, of the 130 Act coolies who deserted, 22 were arrested, and 20 were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment as follows :—4 for one week, 6 for two weeks, 5 for fifteen days, 1 for three weeks, 2 for one month, and 2 for six weeks. The number of desertions returned from unhealthy gardens in this district was 63, but punishments were inflicted in only 6 of these cases, 6 of the deserters being sentenced to rigorous imprisonment as follows :—4 for fourteen days, 1 for three weeks, and 1 for six weeks. In the Sibságar district, of 995 Act labourers who deserted, 251 were arrested, and 203 were convicted, of whom 4 were sentenced to simple imprisonment, 2 for 7 days and 2 for one day each, and the rest to rigorous imprisonment as follows :—8 for one day each, 2 for three days, 41 for one week, 1 for eight days, 3 for ten days, 1 for twelve days, 41 for two weeks, 17 for fifteen days, 22 for three weeks, 60 for one month, 1 for five weeks, and 2 for six weeks. The number of deserters from unhealthy gardens is returned as 200 (from twelve gardens), and of these 23 coolies were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment as follows :—4 for one week, 2 for two weeks, 6 for fifteen days, 5 for three weeks, 6 for one month, 1 coolie was sentenced to one day's simple imprisonment. In the Lakhimpur district, of 1,154 Act labourers who deserted,

262 were arrested, and 246 were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment as follows:—25 for one day, 4 for three days, 3 for five days, 20 for seven days, 30 for ten days, 42 for fourteen days, 51 for fifteen days, 40 for twenty-one days, 25 for one month, 1 for forty-two days, 1 for forty-five days, 2 for two months. Two persons were simply ordered to go back to the gardens. The number of deserters from unhealthy gardens is returned as 203 (from ten gardens); and of these, 47 coolies, including the deserters of the previous year, were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment as follows:—1 for one day, 1 for three days, 13 for seven days, 12 for fourteen days, 7 for fifteen days, 2 for twenty-one days, 9 for one month, 1 for six weeks, 1 for two months.

The following statement gives in a tabular form some interesting particulars regarding desertions amongst Act labourers:

District.	Number who deserted during 1891.	Number who were arrested.	Percentage of number arrested to number who deserted.	Number convicted.	Percentage of number convicted to number who deserted.	Number who deserted from unhealthy gardens, that is gardens on which the number of deaths during the year was 10 or more and on which the death rate exceeded 7 per cent.	Percentage of number who deserted from unhealthy gardens to total number who deserted.	Number of deserters from unhealthy gardens who were convicted and punished.	Percentage of number of deserters from unhealthy gardens who were convicted to total number of deserters from such gardens.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cachar ...	675	83	12·3	81	12·0	255	37·7	11	4·3
Sylhet ...	546	38	6·9	31	5·7	17	3·1	17	100·
Kámrúp ...	75	21	28·0	21	28·0	60	80·0	18	30·0
Darrang ...	748	219	29·2	195	26·1	191	25·5	29	15·2
Nowgong ...	130	22	16·9	20	15·4	63	48·4	6	9·5
Sibságar ...	995	251	25·2	203	20·4	200	20·1	24	12·0
Lakhimpur ...	1,154	262	22·7	246	21·3	203	17·5	47	23·1
Total ...	4,323	896	20·7	797	18·4	989	22·8	152	15·3

The above figures show what a small proportion of the Act labourers who deserted were arrested and convicted, and there is no doubt that in the very large majority of cases the matter is settled between the manager and the deserters without recourse to the Courts. The figures also show the generally small proportion of desertions which take place from unhealthy gardens. As regards the punishments inflicted, the Chief Commissioner has no reason to suppose that excessive sentences are generally imposed, or that officers trying such cases fail to exercise discrimination. At the same time it is of course most desirable that the circumstances of each case should be carefully enquired into, and that allegations, if made by the accused, of desertion on account of such reasons as the unhealthiness of the garden, non-payment of wages, overwork, insufficient food, and the like should always be sifted, and, if proved correct, should be allowed due weight. In connection with the punishments inflicted it must be remembered that the offence of desertion is one which is often repeated again and again by the same person and that the law (section 175 of Act I of 1882) expressly attaches higher penalties, up to a maximum of three months' imprisonment, to third and subsequent convictions.

Nationality and sex of deserters.

29. The nationality and sex of deserters are shown below :

Nationality.	Sex	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Pengal ...	Men ...	427	417	846	779	1,273	1,196	4·76	4·55	4·31	3·80	2·05	3·52
	Women.	209	210	634	650	843	860	2·49	2·38	3·32	3·28		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	609	532	1,454	1,353	2,063	1,885	8·26	11·93	7·36	8·63	6·59	7·85
	Women.	234	193	996	889	1,230	1,082	4·26	6·17	5·75	6·09		
Behar	Men ...	...	231	...	322	...	553	...	6·38	...	5·23	...	4·57
	Women.	...	84	...	184	...	268	...	2·99	...	3·43		
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	1,518	1,571	1,012	946	2,530	2,517	4·33	4·31	3·20	2·93	3·07	2·90
	Women.	544	578	797	694	1,341	1,272	1·78	1·80	2 77	2·35		
Nepal	Men ...	1	51	17	9	18	60	3·12	91·23	13·94	5·65	9·00	22·70
	Women.	...	13	5	3	5	16	...	61·90	6·29	3·18		
Madras ...	Men ...	85	134	49	36	134	170	6·4	6·44	4 62	2·85	4·23	3·30
	Women.	26	26	40	17	66	43	1·98	1·49	3·71	1·30		
Bombay ...	Men ...	...	1	4	5	4	6	...	2·63	3·04	3·21	2·16	2·76
	Women.	...	1	2	3	2	4	...	5·00	1·53	1·96		
Assam	Men ...	213	231	948	408	1,161	639	8·81	8·56	11·58	5·39	9·49	5·61
	Women.	16	50	81	59	97	109	2·01	4 82	4·31	3·05		
Orissa	Men ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Women.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	Men ...	2,853	3,168	4,330	3,858	7,183	7,026	5·19	5·41	5·38	4·59	5·29	4·93
	Women.	1,029	1,155	2,555	2,499	3,584	3,654	2·22	2·31	3·74	3·43	3·12	2·98
Grand total ...	.....	3,882	4,323	6,885	6,357	10,767	10,680	3·82	3·98	4·62	4·06	4 30	4·02

The above figures call for no remark, unless it be in regard to the increased tendency to desert displayed on the part of immigrants from Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Nepal. As regards the Nepali immigrants, this result is explained in paragraph 12 of this report.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

Birth rate.

30. The following figures show the birth rate per mille during the past two years, calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

	1890.	1891.
Cachar	116·9	110·9
Sylhet	91·5	98·0
Kámrúp	110·9	85·5
Darrang	52·0	76·4
Nowgong	81·4	83·6
Sibságar	89·3	94·6
Lakhimpur	79·3	83·5
Total	89·8	94·2

These figures show results more nearly approximating to the truth than in the previous year for every district except Kámrúp. But there can be no doubt that the registration of births on tea gardens is still very defective, and the Chief Commissioner can only look to Inspectors to do all that lies in their power with a view to effect improvement. It is satisfactory to notice that in Darrang, where the rate was absurdly low in 1890, considerable improvement has taken place during the year under report though the rate for 1891 is still unduly low, and must point to very incomplete registration.

31. The following table distributes the births among the different nationalities, and strikes the ratio on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

Birth rate according to nationality.

District.	Bengal.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Behar.			Chota Nagpur.			Nepal.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	10,238	1,049	102·4	4,963	795	160·1	2,628	289	109·9	7,636	754	98·7	65	1	15·3
Sylhet	6,028	510	84·6	9,048	1,005	111·0	2,647	296	111·8	6,793	648	95·3	9	1	111·1
Kámrúp	539	48	89·0	36	2	55·5	4	1	250·0	435	33	75·8	1	..	....
Darrang	2,881	212	73·5	935	40	42·7	456	50	109·6	7,763	633	81·5	17	2	117·6
Nowgong	657	99	150·6	155	15	96·7	156	10	64·5	3,031	199	65·6	....	..	....
Sibságar	5,393	686	127·2	1,981	118	59·5	1,490	166	111·4	17,690	1,554	87·8	14	1	71·4
Lakhimpur	2,897	135	46·6	574	31	54·0	756	49	64·8	18,397	1,685	91·5	7	..	....
Total of 1891 ..	28,634	2,739	95·6	17,694	2,006	113·4	8,138	861	105·8	61,749	5,506	89·1	114	5	43·8
				North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar.											
„ „ 1890 ..	27,387	2,271	82·9	22,779	2,524	110·8	....	....	....	59,142	5,132	86·7	100	5	50·0

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Assam.			Orissa.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	361	5	13·8	162	4	24·6	75	1	13·3	....	....	....	26,130	2,898	110·9
Sylhet	1,709	117	68·4	6	..	....	19	....	....	51	3	58·8	26,312	2,580	98·0
Kámrúp	18	....	....	....	..	....	89	12	134·8	....	....	....	1,122	96	85·5
Darrang	322	17	52·7	....	..	....	1,572	112	71·2	....	....	....	13,947	1,066	76·4
Nowgong	87	5	57·4	....	..	....	599	64	106·8	....	....	....	4,687	392	83·6
Sibságar	298	15	50·3	8	..	....	579	59	101·8	....	....	....	27,458	2,599	94·6
Lakhimpur	292	12	41·0	....	..	....	120	14	116·6	....	....	....	23,044	1,926	83·5
Total of 1891 ..	3,090	171	55·3	176	4	22·7	3,053	262	85·8	51	3	58·8	122,702	11,557	94·2
„ „ 1890 ..	2,259	118	52·2	138	3	21·7	2,676	236	88·1	42	4	95·2	114,527	10,293	89·8

32. The statistics of mortality in each district for each half-year separately are given in the table below, with the corresponding figures of the previous year :

Death rate for the year.

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers, including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Cachar	1,222	1,883	1,604	2,008	2,826	3,891	12·3	18·5	16·0	19·5	28·3	38·0
Sylhet	1,048	1,472	1,337	1,757	2,385	3,229	13·0	17·1	16·1	19·1	29·1	36·7
Kámrúp	159	130	149	100	308	230	49·2	39·0	48·0	27·5	97·2	66 5
Darrang	658	878	847	1,049	1,505	1,927	15·5	19 6	19·3	22·4	34·8	42 0
Nowgong	301	307	220	365	521	672	20·0	18·9	14·0	21·8	34·0	40·7
Sibságar	1,884	1,333	1,745	1,725	3,629	3,058	20·8	14·1	18·9	17·8	39·7	31·9
Lakhimpur	1,236	1,202	1,539	1,623	2,775	2,825	17·4	15·8	21·0	20·3	38·5	36·1
Total	6,508	7,205	7,441	8,627	13,949	15,832	16·2	17·1	18·1	19·7	34·3	36·8

It will thus be seen that the annual death rate for the year under report was higher than that for the previous year in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Darrang, and Nowgong, while it was lower in the districts of Kámrúp, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. The increase in the rate of mortality is attributed to the particularly unhealthy character of the year, and especially to the prevalence of cholera during certain periods. The decrease in the rate, where it took place, has not been satisfactorily explained ; but except in the case of Kámrúp, where the figures are comparatively small, the rate recorded during the year under report may perhaps be regarded as fairly correct. At the same time the Chief Commissioner is quite unable to offer any explanation as to why the death rate in the case of Sibságar and Lakhimpur should show a reduction, while the rate in other important districts, both in the Surma and Assam Valleys, shows an opposite result.

Death rate among adults.

33. The following table shows the mortality among both Act and non-Act adults during each of the past two years :

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Cachar	545	633	1,180	1,776	1,725	2,409	60·3	83·2	25·4	35·7	31·0	41·8	55,463	57,392
Sylhet	536	390	1,129	1,756	1,665	2,146	57·0	49·2	27·5	38·5	33·0	40·1	50,198	53,241
Kámrúp	89	91	126	81	215	172	133·3	114·8	91·4	54·8	105·4	75·2	2,038	2,286
Darrang	910	1,040	306	342	1,216	1,382	49·6	49·2	26·5	30·3	40·9	42·5	29,699	32,248
Nowgong	154	208	231	270	385	478	49·8	57·0	33·4	38·1	38·5	44·7	10,020	10,685
Sibságar	1,837	1,561	738	527	2,575	2,088	52·8	41·8	34·2	24·2	45·7	35·4	56,225	58,772
Lakhimpur	1,582	1,493	580	614	2,162	2,107	60·1	49·1	28·6	29·9	46·5	41·4	46,467	50,689
Total	5,653	5,416	4,290	5,366	9,943	10,782	55·6	49·8	28·8	34·1	39·7	40·5	250,113	265,315

These figures show that the mortality rate amongst Act coolies decreased, as compared with the previous year, in all districts except Cachar and Nowgong, while the rate amongst non-Act coolies advanced in all cases except Kámrúp and Sibságar. The only explanation which can be offered of this result, bearing in mind the larger importations of unacclimatized Act labour which characterised the year, is an increased resort to the provisions of section 122 of Act I of 1882, which provides for the discharge of permanently incapacitated labourers with three months' wages. (See paragraph 22 of this report.)

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar remarks as follows upon the increased mortality both amongst Act and non-Act coolies in that district :

> The death rate among Act adults increased by 22·9 and that among non-Act adults by 10·3 per mille. The increase in the case of the former is partly due to the large importation during the year of North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar labourers, who seem on most gardens to contribute a proportionately larger number both of deaths and desertions than any other nationality. The truth is that the bulk of the North-Western Provinces coolies who come here are low caste men,—Chamars, Bhars, and so on. Half starved in their own country, they have little or no stamina, and, like all North-Westers, they are bent on saving money, and seldom feed themselves well. I do not go so far as to say that this district is entirely unsuited for North-West labour. On some gardens they do very well, and if a better class were imported, I have little doubt they would do well enough on a good many more ; but as things are at present managed, North-West labour is not as a rule satisfactory. It is, however, cheap and easily procured, so that importations are likely to increase rather than to diminish.

34. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths which occurred amongst Act labourers during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths among Act coolies.

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1891.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar ...	*1891*	*8,020*	*7,399*	*133*	*108*	*113*	*23*	*44*	*212*	*216*	*417*	*633*	*83·2*
	1890	9,653	8,688	148	131	122	30	...	114	206	339	545	60·3
Sylhet ...	*1891*	*8,192*	*7,646*	*56*	*68*	*44*	*57*	*23*	*142*	*196*	*194*	*390*	*49·2*
	1890	9,551	9,256	71	112	53	90	15	195	239	297	536	57·0
Kámrúp ...	*1891*	*745*	*842*	*6*	*15*	*7*	*3*	*42**	*18*	*44*	*47*	*91*	*114·8*
	1890	652	681	9	9	47	...	...	24	40	49	89	133·3
Darrang ...	*1891*	*20,116*	*21,857*	*218*	*188*	*83*	*57*	*193*	*301*	*450*	*590*	*1,040*	*49·2*
	1890	17,614	18,802	69	202	134	86	134	285	367	543	910	49·6
Nowgong ...	*1891*	*3,488*	*3,770*	*56*	*31*	*8*	*6*	*27*	*80*	*88*	*120*	*208*	*57·0*
	1890	2,985	3,236	40	24	5	5	5	75	90	64	154	49·8
Sibságar ...	*1891*	*36,385*	*37,785*	*180*	*357*	*137*	*70*	*101*	*716†*	*651*	*910*	*1,561*	*41·8*
	1890	34,252	35,217	501	366	135	81	73	681	971	866	1,837	52·8
Lakhimpur ...	*1891*	*28,997*	*31,525*	*169*	*390*	*173*	*83*	*217*	*461*	*650*	*843*	*1,493*	*49·1*
	1890	25,658	26,803	259	348	107	75	167	626	693	889	1,582	60·1
Total of ...	*1891*	*105,943*	*110,825*	*818*	*1,157*	*565*	*299*	*647*	*1,930*	*2,295*	*3,121*	*5,416*	*49·8*
	1890	100,367	102,684	1,097	1,192	603	367	394	2,000	2,606	3,047	5,653	55·6
	1889	95,289	99,774	1,565	1,478	526	452	290	1,891	2,856	3,346	6,202	63·5

Taking the province as a whole, a decrease occurred under all heads of disease except 'Anæmia', the increase under which is doubtless due to the fact that the classification was more accurate than during the previous year. In only two districts of the province (Cachar and Nowgong) was the mortality rate higher than in the preceding year, the rate in Cachar having advanced from 60·3 per mille to 83·2, and in Nowgong from 49·8 per mille to 57·0. The number of deaths from cholera decreased in every district except Darrang and Nowgong, the decrease being especially marked in Sibságar and Lakhimpur.

Commenting on the returns for the district of Cachar, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

Taking the deaths separately for each cause of death, it will be seen that there has been a decrease in 1891 under all the causes except 'Anæmia' and 'Other causes' as compared with the previous year. During the year under report several of the gardens were visited by small-pox, which accounts for a good many of the deaths under 'Other causes'. Forty-four deaths from anæmia were, it will be seen, recorded during the year under report. All possible attention has been paid to this disease. The medical officers and managers of gardens have been fully instructed with regard to the symptoms and treatment of the disease, having been supplied with copies of Dr. Kynsey's and Dr. Giles' notes on the subject, and also personally instructed by the Civil Surgeon, and most of them are fully alive to the importance of the subject. *Thymol* has been freely used, and a beginning has been made to the introduction of a regular system of sanitation ; but it must, I fear, be many years before we can get a regular and complete system of sanitation in all gardens. Most managers appear to be afraid to attempt to introduce it. What they say is as a rule something as follows :—"If we insist on the coolies using latrines, they will simply leave the garden and go to other gardens where they are allowed to do as they please. There will always be some gardens which will not join us in doing anything of the kind." Then, also, they object on the ground of cost, but, as has been pointed out to them over and over again, the expenditure will be made up for by the improvement in the health and efficiency of their coolies. I think myself that if managers would only try, they would not find the difficulties so great as they anticipate.

In the same connection the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet reports :

The managers of tea gardens provide good food and water, good medicines and hospitals for the sick ; but, notwithstanding this, the slovenly habits of the coolies, especially of the North-Westers, who form the great bulk of population on the tea gardens, neutralise all efforts to keep them in health. The subdivisional officer of Karimganj reports :—" The deaths occur far more amongst new coolies than among old and acclimatised coolies. It is not to be wondered at that the complete change of climate and diet should simply decimate the half-starved North-Westers. It may be said to be a case of kill or cure; if the man gets through his first year or so, he will probably develop into a far healthier man than he was on his arrival. As a rule, on arriving on a garden the North-Western Provinces coolies are in a miserable condition, and in spite of the utmost exertions of the managers, many of them die. It is now becoming the custom amongst

* Includes 36 deaths from *kála-azár*.

† „ 57 „ „ influenza.

gardens importing labour from the North-Western Provinces to keep a kitchen from which food is dispensed regularly every day to new coolies. This system works well, and no doubt saves the lives of many coolies."

As regards the district of Darrang, where the mortality figures are largely swelled by increases under the heads of 'Cholera' and 'Anæmia', the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner remarks that on the occasion of his visits to unhealthy gardens in that district, the principal defects observed were (1) insufficient drainage and (2) non-clearance of jungle in the immediate vicinity of the coolies' dwellings. These remarks will be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner.

In the case of Nowgong, which shows an increased mortality under every head of disease, no particular explanation is given ; but as regards *beri-beri*, or coolies' anæmia, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

All the managers were requested to supply me with a statement showing the efforts made by them to combat the disease (anæmia) and the success attending them. Only a few managers supplied me with the information. From these statements it appeared that all the cases of anæmia were treated with *thymol* with the greatest success. The inspecting officers, especially the civil medical officer, make it their chief aim when inspecting to pick out anæmia cases and point out to the managers the necessity of *thymol* treatment. Their names are recorded in the inspection reports. On the next inspection the Inspector makes enquiries as to these people. The hotel system of feeding weakly and anæmic coolies is also in existence in this district.

As regards *anchylostomiasis*, the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar (Mr. Pittar) writes :

This matter now receives strict attention on all gardens which are inspected by the Civil Surgeon, or which employ a European medical officer. From a few figures I have been favoured with, I am inclined to think that about 80 per cent. of cases are treated successfully even now on the best managed gardens. On the other hand, I am not sure that gardens where there is no European medical supervision have made much progress. Dr. Banerji deals carefully with the question at all his inspections, and has, no doubt, effected much improvement. What I most complain of is that native doctors as a class lack interest in their work. It has often been observed at inspections that coolies who were evidently ill had never been seen by the doctor. Of course, managers do not encourage doctors to swell the sick list, though a large sick list means a small death list and *vice versâ*. A Doctor of Medicine, whose experience is valuable, had told me that from the well-ascertained fact that the disease does not run through houses and families, but appears in a scattered and irregular manner, he infers that the disease is very frequently contracted from drinking *hula* water, and the best preventive is sending out pure water to the coolies when out at work.

35. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths among adult non-Act coolies during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths among non-Act coolies.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act labourers employed in 1891.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar ...	*1891* ...	*48,812*	*50,554*	*378*	*262*	*383*	*65*	*31*	*657*	*885*	*891*	*1,776*	*35·7*
	1890 ...	45,606	46,978	239	149	273	49	3	467	601	579	1,180	25·4
Sylhet ...	*1891* ...	*44,010*	*46,634*	*281*	*359*	*293*	*234*	*50*	*539*	*727*	*1,029*	*1,756*	*38·5*
	1890 ...	40,151	41,438	135	236	182	111	11	454	496	633	1,129	27·5
Kámrúp ...	*1891* ...	*1,429*	*1,557*	*11*	*8*	*12*	*1*	*47**	*2*	*51*	*30*	*81*	*54·8*
	1890 ...	1,415	1,328	16	12	64	...	...	34	72	54	126	91·4
Darrang ...	*1891* ...	*11,257*	*11,266*	*136*	*42*	*40*	*33*	*45*	*46*	*186*	*156*	*342*	*30·3*
	1890 ...	11,599	11,384	15	49	43	25	30	144	160	146	306	26·5
Nowgong ...	*1891* ...	*7,017*	*7,095*	*38*	*22*	*60*	*9*	*8*	*133*	*134*	*136*	*270*	*38·1*
	1890 ...	6,831	6,989	72	22	37	13	3	84	146	85	231	33·4
Sibsagar ...	*1891* ...	*21,576*	*21,799*	*78*	*90*	*52*	*22*	*16*	*269†*	*271*	*256*	*527*	*24·2*
	1890 ...	21,533	21,448	232	103	57	29	18	299	439	299	738	34·2
Lakhimpur ...	*1891* ...	*20,148*	*20,708*	*57*	*125*	*55*	*35*	*75*	*267*	*271*	*343*	*614*	*29·9*
	1890 ...	20,192	20,281	90	81	61	32	25	291	311	269	580	28·6
Total of ...	*1891* ...	*154,249*	*159,614*	*979*	*908*	*895*	*399*	*272*	*1,913*	*2,525*	*2,841*	*5,366*	*34·1*
	1890 ...	147,328	149,847	799	652	717	259	90	1,773	2,225	2,065	4,290	28·8
	1889 ...	141,638	145,893	1,104	781	799	279	66	2,091	2,654	2,466	5,120	35·6

These figures show that there was a considerable increase of mortality amongst non-Act adult coolies during the year under report, and that taking the province as a whole, the increase was common to every head of disease. The increased mortality is especially noteworthy in the Surma Valley districts, the death rates in Cachar and Sylhet having advanced from 25·4 and 27·5 per mille in the previous year to 35·7 and 38·5 per

* Includes 45 deaths from *kála-azár*.
† „ 14 „ „ influenza.

mille respectively. As regards the results in the district of Cachar, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

The year was an unhealthy one all round. In March, April, and May we had a bad outbreak of cholera. Following this came small-pox, and on the top of this many gardens were visitedby influenza. When, besides all this, I say that, owing perhaps to somewhat deficient rainfall and great heat, there was a great deal of fever almost throughout the year, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the results of the year are so bad. Thirty-one cases of anæmia were reported among non-Act labourers, so that if these figures be correct, this disease is much less common among free labour. As to why this should be so I am not at present prepared to offer an opinion.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet had not been in charge of the district for a sufficient time to enable him to criticise the figures, but attention may be called to the extract given in the foregoing paragraph of this report.

In the Assam Valley, the mortality rate amongst non-Act coolies showed an increase in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur, and a decrease in the districts of Kámrúp and Sibságar. Except in the case of Lakhimpur, where the increase in the death rate amongst non-Act coolies was small, these results correspond with those shown in paragraphs 32 and 33 under the head of 'General death rate and death rate amongst Act and non-Act adults'; but if the comparison is made between the death rate during the year under report amongst Act and non-Act coolies respectively, more or less marked variations become apparent. For these variations no sufficient reason can be assigned.

Death rate among children.

36. The statement below shows the death rate among children (that is, from birth to the age of 16 years) during each of the past two years :

District.	Mean strength of children in 1891.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Total of 1890.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.		1891.	1890.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar	44,634	44,747	186	215	261	63	11	746	782	700	1,482	1,101	33·1	24·8
Sylhet	33,613	35,557	159	188	313	64	4	355	549	534	1,083	720	31·3	22·9
Kámrúp ...	1,152	1,227	5	8	17	...	23*	5	35	23	58	93	49·0	82·5
Darrang ...	13,405	13,677	108	96	106	53	28	154	242	303	545	289	40·1	21·5
Nowgong ...	5,654	5,830	21	31	52	2	3	85	85	109	194	136	33·6	25·5
Sibságar ...	36,223	37,195	71	201	208	29	22	439†	411	559	970	1,054	26·3	30·0
Lakhimpur ...	26,956	27,793	32	158	196	41	49	242	281	437	718	613	26·1	23·7
Total of 1891 ...	161,638	166,026	582	897	1,153	252	140	2,026	2,385	2,665	5,050	.....	30·7	...
„ „ 1890 ..	153,974	157,978	476	698	864	16	74	1,730	1,677	2,329	4,006	4,006	...	25·6

It will thus be seen that amongst children an increase in mortality occurred under every head of disease, though the death rates are generally in all probability still very far below the truth. The figures indeed are so incorrect as to render comment useless; but it is doubtless the case, as observed by the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, that infant mortality is generally very severe in a year, like the year under report, when an unusually large influx of immigrants took place.

Order of demerit as regards death rate.

37. The following is the order of demerit of the various districts, both with regard to the mortality among the three different classes of the labour force and the total mortality :

District.	Order of mortality among			
	Act adults.	Non-Act adults.	Children.	Total.
Cachar	2	4	4	4
Sylhet	4	2	5	5
Kámrúp	1	1	1	1
Darrang	4	5	2	2
Nowgong	3	3	3	3
Sibságar	6	7	6	7
Lakhimpur	5	6	7	6

From the above figures it will be seen that Kámrúp is, as in the previous year the most unhealthy district whatever test may be applied. Sibságar and Lakhimpur

* Includes 17 deaths from *kála-azár*.
† „ 41 „ „ influenza.

have improved their position considerably, whereas both Darrang and Nowgong have retrograded.

Mortality according to country of origin.

38. The statement below shows the mortality distributed according to nationality and gives figures for adults only :

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Bengal ...	Men ...	859	927	29·0	32·1	55,919	58,273
	Women ...	763	947				
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	1,165	1,092		52·7	49,893	37,877
	Women ...		916	43·0			
Behar ...	Men ...		476		49·6		17,949
	Women ...	981	418				
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	2,976	2,752	45·0	41·1	125,750	130,623
	Women ...	2,689	2,622				
Nepal ...	Men ...	5	10	31·3	48·5	255	331
	Women ...	3	6				
Madras ...	Men ...	119	188	56·6	56·4	4,624	6,434
	Women ...	143	176				
Bombay ...	Men ...	2	3	14·3	16·5	278	365
	Women ...	2	3				
Assam ...	Men ...	167	148	17·6	18·3	13,295	13,344
	Women ...	67	97				
Orissa ...	Men ...	1	1	20·8	8·3	96	117
	Women ...	1	...				
Total ...	Men ...	5,294	5,597	39·0	39·2	135,586	142,613
	Women ...	4,649	5,185	40·5	42·2	114,527	122,702
Grand total ...	...	9,943	10,782	39·7	40·5	250,113	265,315

Taking the immigrants from the four main localities of recruitment, *i.e.*, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Behar, and Chota Nagpur, it will be seen that the greatest proportionate mortality occurred amongst immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, next comes Behar, then Chota Nagpur, and lastly Bengal.

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

39. The following statement shows the proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district. All gardens on which ten or more deaths have occurred and the death rate on which exceeds 7 per cent. were classed as unhealthy gardens :

District.	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	187	187	12	25	6·5	13·4
Sylhet	115	118	11	12	9·5	10·2
Kámrúp	89	50	8	6	8·9	12·0
Darrang	89	89	9	15	10·1	16·8
Nowgong	61	59	5	8	8·1	13·5
Sibságar	215	224	27	12	12·5	5·4
Lakhimpur	151	145	15	11	9 9	7·6
Total	907	872	87	89	9·5	10·2

Thus the proportion of unhealthy gardens for the province as a whole shows an increase as compared with the previous year, and this increase was especially marked in the districts of Cachar and Darrang. On the other hand, there was a substantial and satisfactory decrease in Sibsâgar and to a less extent in Lakhimpur. As regards the figures generally, it has been explained in each of the provincial reports for the two preceding years that under the existing system, gardens on which ten or more deaths have occurred are held to be brought on the unhealthy list when either (1) the death rate for the garden population as a whole, or (2) the death rate amongst Act-I labourers, or (3) the death rate amongst non-Act labourers exceeds 7 per cent. As to this system, the Chief Commissioner would observe that although statistics regarding the health of labourers not recruited under Act I are doubtless interesting and instructive not only in themselves, but also for purposes of comparison with the statistics for Act labourers, estates can only be brought on the unhealthy list and dealt with under sections 130-132 of the Act when the death rate amongst labourers *imported under the Act* exceeds 7 per cent. In the following paragraphs each district will be taken up separately with reference to the inspection reports of Civil Surgeons (see Appendix A of this report) and with especial regard to the statistics in the case of gardens on the unhealthy list so far as Act labourers are concerned. As regards gardens classified as unhealthy on the garden population as a whole or on non-Act labourers only, but which are not unhealthy on Act labourers taken alone, it seems unnecessary to make detailed remarks, as action cannot be taken by the Chief Commissioner under the law. At the same time district officers and Inspectors are expected to do everything in their power with a view to induce managers of all gardens to remove defects and to adopt proper sanitary measures where it is shown that the death rate among non-Act labourers is excessive. The Chief Commissioner would also remark that he is not prepared to take action under section 132 of the Act in cases in which gardens, ordinarily healthy, are brought on the unhealthy list merely in consequence of the occurrence of an epidemic. It will be noticed that the form in which Civil Surgeons' report on unhealthy gardens varies, and that the reports in some cases are not sufficiently full. These defects will be remedied by the adoption of an amended form of inspection for unhealthy gardens, which is at present under the Chief Commissioner's consideration.

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

40. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Cachar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Dalucherra ...	51	47	4	12	16	78·4	255·3	333·7
	2. Myracherra ...	37	40	4	7	11	108·1	175·0	283·1
	3. Dulargram ...	318	269	7	16	23	22·0	59·4	81·4
	4. Tikalpar (Upper and Lower) and Salganga.	226	176	2	19	21	8·8	108·0	116·8
	5. Pathicherra ...	232	244	2	17	19	8·6	69·6	78·2
	6. Thailu ...	233	223	4	28	32	17·1	125·5	142·6
	7. Dewan ...	185	187	3	20	23	16·2	106·9	123·1
	8. Baladhan ...	97	46	5	6	11	51·5	130·4	181·9
	9. Palarband ...	146	131	2	10	12	13·6	76·3	89·9
	10. Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur ...	171	204	5	22	27	29·2	107·8	137·0
	11. Kumbirgram ...	169	146	5	6	11	29·5	41·0	70·5
	12. Sonacherra ...	58	52	8	4	12	137·9	76·9	214·8
	13. Marticherra ...	144	151	5	8	13	34·7	52·9	87·6
Haila-kandi.	14. Lalamukh or Hasiura ..	211	228	13	14	27	61·6	61·4	123·0
	15. Lalacherra ...	160	106	4	9	13	25·0	84·9	109·9
	Total	2,438	2,250	73	198	271	29·9	88·0	117·9

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Dalucherra	10	...	6	...	...	...	16
	2. Myracherra	...	5	1	...	...	5	11
	3. Dulargram	2	6	...	6	...	9	23
	4. Tikalpar (Upper and Lower) and Salganga	1	8	4	5	...	3	21
	5. Pathicherra	...	13	...	5	...	1	19
	6. Thailu	4	13	2	4	1	8	32
	7. Dewan	5	9	1	5	...	3	23
	8. Baladhan	...	...	1	1	...	9	11
	9. Palarband	...	6	...	3	...	3	12
	10. Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	3	3	...	...	17	4	27
	11. Kumbirgram	...	4	1	...	...	6	11
	12. Sonacherra	...	7	2	3	...	...	12
	13. Marticherra	5	6	1	...	...	1	13
Hailákándi.	14. Lalamukh or Hasiura ...	4	9	1	...	4	9	27
	15. Lalacherra ...	2	4	...	...	...	7	13
	Total...	36	93	20	32	22	68	271

Unhealthy or non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	16. Lakhipur... ...	234	252	22	2	24	94·0	7·9	101·9
	17. Dhuarband ...	552	558	51	18	69	92·3	32·2	124·5
	18. Noarband ...	401	403	28	3	31	69·8	7·4	77·2
	19. Dudpatli Tila ...	1,153	1,085	50	37	87	43·3	34·1	74·4
	20. Bandhu	213	215	5	16	21	23·4	74·4	97·8
	Total	2,553	2,513	156	76	232	61·1	30·2	91·3

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	16. Lakhipur	9	4	1	...	...	10	24
	17. Dhuarband	37	6	3	...	1	22	69
	18. Noarband	21	5	...	2	...	3	31
	19. Dudpatli Tila	15	14	18	1	...	39	87
	20. Bandhu	...	2	10	4	...	5	21
	Total...	82	31	32	7	1	79	232

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	21. Dudpatli Bara and Chaltakandi ...	1,368	1,127	79	44	123	57·7	39·0	96·7
Sadr ...	22. Dayapur and Ataicherra	917	930	24	45	69	26·1	48·3	74·4
Sadr ...	23. Abongcherra ...	435	448	15	21	36	34·4	46·8	81·2
Sadr ...	24. Scottpur	901	964	24	52	76	26·6	53·9	80·5
Hailákándi	25. Badarpur ...	514	539	28	17	45	54·4	31·5	85·9
	Total	4,135	4,008	170	179	349	41·1	44·6	85·7

Causes of deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	21. Dudpatli Bara and Chaltakandi	10	21	7	5	...	80	123
Sadr ...	22. Dayapur and Ataicherra ...	3	25	6	4	...	31	69
Sadr ...	23. Abongcherra	11	8	9	1	...	7	36
Sadr ...	24. Scottpur	1	26	14	14	...	21	76
Hailákándi	25. Badarpur	18	8	10	...	...	9	45
	Total	43	88	46	24	...	148	349

The Deputy Commissioner reports that Committees under section 128 of the Act will be appointed in the case of Baladhan and Palarband, which have been on the unhealthy list continuously for four and three years respectively. As regards Dulargram, Rosekandi, Marticherra, and Lalacherra, the Deputy Commissioner is awaiting the returns for the first-half year of 1892 before deciding whether Committees should be summoned under the Act. In all these cases, therefore, no present action is necessary on the part of the Chief Commissioner, but the Deputy Commissioner will be called upon to submit the reports of the Committees on Baladhan and Palarband, and to communicate the decisions arrived at in the case of the other gardens mentioned with the reports of any Committees which may be appointed. Failing such Committees, the Chief Commissioner will consider whether the circumstances are such as to require action under section 132 of the Act. The remaining gardens which were unhealthy on the Act population during the year under report are Dalucherra, Myracherra, Tikalpar (Upper and Lower) and Salganga, Pathicherra, Thailu, Dewan, Kumbirgram, Sonacherra, and Lalamukh or Hasiura. The Chief Commissioner has carefully perused the Civil Surgeon's reports on these gardens, and does not think that action is in any case called for under section 132 of the Act. At the same time all these gardens should be carefully watched. In more than one case the high mortality is attributed to the importation of contractors' coolies of inferior physique—a result which is more or less common to all districts of the province. Some gardens in this district adopt the admirable system of holding a weekly hospital parade, when all the coolies are examined by the medical officer, and those showing any signs of disease are at once sent to hospital. The Chief Commissioner would like to see this system, which cannot be otherwise than beneficial, adopted in the case of all gardens. In some of the reports it is said that no separate record was kept of cases of *anchylostomiasis*; but this will not recur, as under orders recently issued in Circular No. 32G., dated the 27th August 1891, the Deputy Commissioners have been directed to show cases of *anchylostomiasis* separately. The Deputy Commissioner, in commenting on one of the Civil Surgeon's reports, takes the opportunity to recommend that inoculation should be prohibited throughout the whole of the Cachar district. This, however, is a question which should be separately reported on.

41. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the district of Sylhet, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
South Sylhet.	1. Ghillacherra ...	161	150	8	13	21	49·6	86·6	133·2
	2. Lakhaicherra	292	315	13	9	22	44·5	28·5	73·0
	3. Kajuricherra ...	399	357	17	23	40	42·6	64·0	106·6
	4. Barmacherra ...	247	231	11	9	20	44·5	38·9	83·4
	5. Mirzapur	49	58	1	10	11	20·4	172·4	192·8
	Total	1,148	1,111	50	64	114	43·5	57·6	101·1

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
South Sylhet.	1. Ghillacherra	1	3	1	12	...	4	21
	2. Lakhaicherra	1	5	1	6	...	9	22
	3. Kajuricherra	3	7	...	3	10	17	40
	4. Barmacherra	5	...	1	6	1	7	20
	5. Mirzapur	...	3	2	5	...	1	11
	Total...	10	18	5	32	11	38	114

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Habiganj .	6. Lalchand ...	904	959	46	66	112	50·8	68·8	119·6
Karimganj.	7. Chandkhira ...	533	745	8	53	61	15·0	71·1	86·1
	8. Sonakhira ...	325	356	5	20	25	15·3	56·1	71·4
	9. Lalkhira... ...	427	477	11	41	52	25·7	85·9	111·6
	Total... ...	2,189	2,537	70	180	250	31·9	70·9	102·8

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Habiganj .	6. Lalchand	12	22	23	6	1	48	112
Karimganj.	7. Chandkhira	4	32	8	11	...	6	61
	8. Sonakhira	...	4	7	1	4	9	25
	9. Lalkhira	...	17	11	2	1	21	52
	Total	16	75	49	20	6	84	250

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
South Sylhet.	10. Chandbhag ...	420	464	12	28	40	28·5	60·3	88·4
	11. Luayani ...	447	554	38	25	63	85·0	45·1	130·8
Karimganj.	12. Hatikhira ...	476	552	6	59	65	12·6	106·8	119·1
	Total ...	1,343	1,570	56	112	168	41·7	71·3	113·0

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Dropsy.	Fever.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
South Sylhet.	10. Chandbhag	1	13	13	5	...	8	40
	11. Luayani	17	15	12	12	...	7	63
Karimganj.	12. Hatikhira	...	31	15	7	...	12	65
	Total	18	59	40	24	...	27	168

The delay which has occurred in the preparation and submission of the Provincial Report has been entirely due to the non receipt of the Civil Surgeon's reports on unhealthy gardens in the Sylhet district. The responsibility for this result rests with the Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon; but it is only fair to remark that both of these officers were new to the district, and that the latter was for some time incapacitated by sickness caused by an accident. The only gardens unhealthy on the Act population were five gardens in the South Sylhet subdivision, in the case of which the Deputy Commissioner states that he will arrange for Committees where necessary. The Deputy Commissioner will be called upon to report in what cases Committees are held and to submit the Committee's reports for the perusal of the Chief Commissioner. Of the four gardens unhealthy on the non-Act population, three (Lalchand, Chandkhira, and Lalkhira) appear from the Civil Surgeon's reports to be very bad cases, and the Deputy Commissioner should take all possible measures with a view to induce the managers to remedy the defects noticed and to introduce such improvements as may be possible. The three gardens unhealthy on the Act and non-Act population taken together were not inspected by the Civil Surgeon.

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

42. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Amchong ...	115	133	6	6	12	52·1	45·1	97·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Amchong ...	.....	2	.....	.....	3*	7	12

* Includes 2 deaths from *kála-azár*.

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
2. Rani ...	62	60	9	2	11	145·1	33·3	178·4

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
2. Rani	1	.....	.....	.....	10*	.....	11

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
3. Chunsali ...	395	410	23	19	42	58·2	46·3	104·5
4. Chandrapur ...	282	267	29	12	41	102·8	44·9	147·7
5. Bordwar ...	330	353	17	10	27	51·5	28·3	79·8
6. Mandakata ...	225	261	19	10	29	84·4	38·3	123·7
Total ...	1,233	1,292	88	51	139	71·3	39·4	110·7

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
3. Chunsali	...	4	3	...	32	3	42
4. Chandrapur ...	7	9	...	...	23	2	41
5. Bordwar... ...	1	4	1	2	15	4	27
6. Mandakata ...	9	1	12	...	2	5	29
Total	17	18	16	2	72†	14	139

All the unhealthy gardens in this district were inspected by the Civil Surgeon, whose reports have been fully commented upon by the Deputy Commissioner. It is clear that the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Teunon, is fully alive to the necessity for watching the unhealthy gardens and taking action when necessary ; and, such being the case, no remarks are called for from the Chief Commissioner.

43. The following statements give particulars regarding unhealthy gardens in Darrang, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per. mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Namgaon	283	339	7	18	25	24·7	53·1	77·8
	2. Nahorani	535	536	18	23	41	33·6	42·9	76·5
	3. Kalain	73	141	5	8	13	68·5	56·7	125·2
	4. Dhekiajuli... ...	181	200	5	10	15	27·6	50·0	77·6
	5. Rowta	174	177	14	17	31	80·4	96·0	176·4
	6. Diplonga	261	290	10	13	23	38·3	44·8	83·1
	7. Mijikajan	399	465	10	32	42	25·0	68·8	93·8
	Total	1,906	2,148	69	121	190	36·2	56·3	92·5

* All from *kála-azár*.
† This includes 67 deaths from *kála-azár*.

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	1. Namgaon	...	6	1	...	9	9	25
	2. Nahorani	3	10	2	2	14	10	41
	3. Kalain	...	4	2	...	4	3	13
	4. Dhekiajuli	1	6	...	1	...	7	15
	5. Rowta	18	5	...	3	1	4	31
	6. Diplonga	8	10	...	...	1	4	23
	7. Mijikajan	14	5	2	2	4	15	42
	Total	44	46	7	8	33	52	190

Unhealthy on Non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	8. Dhendai ..	125	173	3	9	12	24·0	52·0	76·0
Mangaldai...	9. Barpukhuri ...	433	441	18	25	43	41·5	56·7	98·2
	10. Banglagor ...	123	131	14	...	14	113·8	...	113·8
	Total	681	745	35	34	69	51·4	45·6	97·0

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	8. Dhendai	...	1	2	1	...	8	12
Mangaldai...	9. Barpukhuri	3	15	...	6	3	16	43
	10. Banglagor	10	...	2	1	...	1	14
	Total	13	16	4	8	3	25	69

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	11. Gelladong ...	274	269	26	4	30	94·8	14·8	109·6
	12. Tarajuli ...	470	535	22	25	47	46·8	46·7	93·5
	13. Sadharughop ...	436	431	17	18	35	38·9	41·7	80·6
Mangaldai	14. Panbari ...	282	247	20	4	24	70·9	16·2	87·1
	15. Kowpati ...	387	438	20	16	36	51·6	36·5	88·1
	Total ...	1,849	1,920	105	67	172	56·7	34·8	91·5

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	11. Gelladong	22	2	2	2	...	2	30
	12. Tarajuli	18	10	8	3	...	8	47
	13. Sadharughop ...	4	1	4	2	10	14	35
Mangaldai ...	14. Panbari	15	1	4	1	...	3	24
	15. Kowpati	21	2	1	...	1	11	36
	Total	80	16	19	8	11	38	172

Of the seven gardens unhealthy on the Act population, one (Dhekiajuli) will be the subject of a Committee, and the Deputy Commissioner will be requested to submit the Committee's report for the perusal of the Chief Commissioner. In regard to the remaining gardens, it is not proposed at present to hold Committees, and action is not required under section 132 of the Act. The particular case of Rowta has already been noticed in paragraph 3, where the question of responsibility is discussed.

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

44. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Nowgong, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Nelli	121	129	5	11	16	41·3	85·2	126·5
2. Lengteng	282	348	15	11	26	53·1	31·6	84·7
3. Udmari	108	113	3	7	10	27·7	61·9	89·6
Total	511	590	23	29	52	45·0	49·1	94·1

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Nelli	.....	5	2	1	3	5	16
2. Lengteng	3	1	.....	.....	5	17	26
3. Udmari	3	2	.....	.....	.....	5	10
Total	6	8	2	1	8	27	52

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
4. Anjukpani	180	180	6	8	14	33·3	44·4	77·7
5. Siconi	231	235	6	12	18	25·9	51·0	76·9
Total	411	415	12	20	32	29·1	48·1	77·2

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
4. Anjukpani	.....	1	3	.....	1	9	14
5. Siconi	1	5	1	.....	1	10	18
Total	1	6	4	.....	2	19	32

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
6. Koliabar	198	215	19	9	28	95·9	41·8	137·7
7. Silghát	303	333	12	13	25	39·6	39·0	78·6
8. Balijuri	237	238	11	8	19	46·4	33·6	80·0
Total	738	786	42	30	72	56·9	38·1	95·0

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
6. Koliabar	25	1	.....	.....	.....	2	28
7. Silghát	6	5	2	.....	.....	12	25
8. Balijuri	.....	1	10	.....	.....	8	19
Total	31	7	12	.....	.....	22	72

No case seems to have been made out either for summoning Committees or for taking action under section 132 of the Act in regard to any of those gardens which were unhealthy on the Act population during the year under report, but the Deputy Commissioner should be careful to see that all the recommendations made by the Civil Medical Officer in his inspection notes are carried out as far as possible within a reasonable time.

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

45. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the district of Sibságar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Jorhát ...	1. Mariani ...	396	455	14	27	41	35·3	59·3	94·6
	2. Cinnamara ...	630	651	18	31	49	28·5	47·6	76·1
	3. Garia Habi ...	166	175	5	7	12	30·1	40·0	70·1
Golághát ...	4. Hatikuli ...	207	189	7	7	14	33·8	37·0	70·8
	5. Halmira ...	110	79	7	3	10	63·6	37·9	101·5
	6. Bihora ...	208	261	6	15	21	28·8	57·4	86·2
	Total ...	1,717	1,810	57	90	147	33·1	49·7	82·8

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Jorhát	1. Mariani	11	10	5	1	2	12	41
	2. Cinnamara ...	4	10	8	2	1	24	49
	3. Garia Habi ...	...	1	...	1	1	9	12
Golághát	4. Hatikuli ...	4	6	...	...	1	3	14
	5. Halmira ...	2	7	...	...	...	1	10
	6. Bihora	3	8	1	...	4	5	21
	Total	24	42	14	4	9	54	147

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	7. Sonari ...	495	403	32	13	45	64·6	32·2	96·8
	8. Bihubar ...	314	521	12	51	63	38·2	97·8	136·0
Jorhát	9. Hatichungi ...	451	495	10	28	38	22·1	56·5	78·6
	10. Dhekiajuli ...	676	739	16	38	54	23·7	51·4	75·1
	11. Soicatta ...	697	732	22	51	73	31·5	69·6	101·1
Golághát	12. Deering ...	242	268	2	20	22	8·2	74·6	82·8
	Total	2,875	3,158	94	201	295	32·6	63·6	96·2

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	7. Sonari	...	10	2	2	1	30	45
	8. Bihubar ...	4	24	6	...	...	29	63
Jorhát	9. Hatichungi ...	3	12	3	5	...	15	38
	10. Dhekiajuli ...	3	23	3	4	...	21	54
	11. Soicatta ...	1	19	6	11	6	30	73
Golághát	12. Deering ...	9	3	5	...	1	4	22
	Total	20	91	25	22	8	129	295

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population only.

Of the six gardens unhealthy on the Act population, all, with the exception of Hatikuli, were specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and in regard to the gardens thus inspected it seems only necessary that the Deputy Commissioner should be careful to see that the recommendations made are carried out within a reasonable time. These inspections appear to have been performed in a very thorough manner, and as regards Mariani, Cinnamara, Garia Habi, and Halmira, the medical officer anticipated that the gardens would cease to be unhealthy in view of the improvements which were being effected by the managers. In the case of Bihora it will be necessary to consider whether action should not be taken under section 132 of the Act unless decided improvement is shown on the occasion of the next inspection. As regards Hatikuli, no time should be lost in holding a special medical inspection, the results of which should be reported for the orders of the Chief Commissioner. In the case of the gardens unhealthy on total population, Committees were held during the year under report, or have been held since the close of the year, on the Sonari and the Deering tea gardens. It is also proposed to hold a Committee on Soicatta.

As regards the majority of the unhealthy gardens in Sibságar, as in most other districts, it cannot be doubted that the mortality is largely due to the inferior class and

poor physique of the coolies recruited under existing arrangements, and the Chief Commissioner can only express his surprise that this state of things should be permitted to continue by those responsible for the proper and economical working of the gardens.

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

46. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Lakhimpur district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act Population only.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Margherita Tea Estate ...	156	336	2	22	24	12·8	65·4	78·2
	2. Rohmaria, Balijan	328	316	11	12	23	33·5	37·9	71·4
	3. Sessa (B. I. Tea Company) ...	121	115	6	5	11	49·5	43·7	92·9
	4. Rowmari ...	497	476	8	27	35	16·0	56·7	72·7
	5. Samdang ...	337	402	11	16	27	32·6	39·8	72·4
	6. Mesaijan ...	536	519	19	27	46	35·4	52·0	87·4
North Lakhimpur.	7. Bordeobam ...	135	152	2	10	12	14·7	65·7	80·4
	Total	2,110	2,316	59	119	178	27·9	51·3	79·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr... ...	1. Margherita Tea Estate	1	8	...	...	1	14	24
	2. Rohmaria, Balijan ...	...	5	2	2	5	9	23
	3. Sessa (B. I. Tea Company) ...	3	2	1	...	4	1	11
	4. Rowmari ...	11	6	...	3	2	13	35
	5. Samdang ...	2	8	12	...	2	3	27
	6. Mesaijan ...	6	23	3	1	2	11	46
North Lakhimpur ...	7. Bordeobam ...	1	8	...	...	3	...	12
	Total	24	60	18	6	19	51	178

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	8. Coal mines at Tikhak ...	632	697	42	13	55	66·4	18·6	85·0
	9. Ditto Ledo ...	1,448	1,701	82	33	115	56·6	19·4	76·0
	10. Dikhari ...	367	375	6	23	29	16·3	61·3	77·6
	11. Naholia Tipling ...	201	236	8	13	21	39·8	55·0	94·8
	Total... ...	2,648	3,009	138	82	220	52·1	27·2	79·3

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr...	8. Coal mines at Tikhak ...	1	16	1	...	8	29	55
	9. Ditto Ledo ...	6	31	3	...	17	58	115
	10. Dikhari ...	1	4	6	...	...	18	29
	11. Naholia Tipling ...	...	7	1	7	...	6	21
	Total	8	58	11	7	25	111	220

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population only.

The particulars supplied in the Civil Surgeon's reports on the unhealthy gardens are not sufficient to enable the Chief Commissioner to decide whether further action is necessary in any of these cases. It is certainly not possible to take action under section 132 of the Act on the meagre information supplied, but the Inspector should consider in connection with the returns of vital statistics for the first half of the current year whether action is called for in any case under section 128 of the Act, and no time should be lost in the appointment of Committees, where necessary. Considerable mortality occurred in the mines of the Assam Railway and Trading Company at Tikhak and Ledo, but the Agent to the Company has recently been directed to give effect to certain recommendations made by the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner as a result of a careful inspection carried out last cold weather. Between the months of March 1891 and February 1892 the mines were inspected no less than seven times, and although the mortality was considerable, the results were less unsatisfactory than during the preceding year.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns.

47. The number of gardens shown in the inspection registers has decreased from 907 to 872, whereas the number submitting returns has increased from 772 to 778. The decrease in the number of gardens on the inspection registers is mainly due to a falling off (from 64 in the previous year to 24 in the year under report) under the head of non-Act gardens with less than 50 coolies. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that, as in the previous year, managers were backward in submitting returns, the last amended return having been received as late as the 19th March 1892, but no prosecutions were undertaken. On the same subject the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong reports as follows :

It is far from satisfactory to note that, with the exception of a few gardens in this district, all the managers showed great dilatoriness in submitting half-yearly returns. One manager detained his half-yearly return of free labourers so late as 21st March 1892. In the case of some managers great difficulty is experienced in getting explanations of mistakes in their returns.

Classification of gardens according to the labourers employed and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

48. The following statement shows the number of gardens, classified district by district, according to the class of labourers employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number visited by inspecting officers :

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	147	34	..	6	187	68	49	1	..	118	12	6	2	30	50	72	5	1	11	89
„ ending returns 50 and 51	147	34	..	..	181	68	49	1	..	118	12	6	2	..	20	72	5	1	..	78
„ inspected once ..	116	26	..	..	142	68	48	..	..	116	6	3	1	..	10	60	5	..	..	65
„ „ twice ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	..	..	8	10	..	..	..	10
„ „ thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
„ „ four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1891.	119	26	..	..	145	68	48	..	..	116	12	5	1	..	18	71	5	..	..	76
„ „ „ „ 1890	146	35	..	..	181	70	41	1	..	112	10	5	..	..	15	69	4	..	..	73

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	34	16	6	3	59	164	15	11	34	224	130	2	3	10	145	627	127	24	94	872
„ sending returns 50 and 51	34	16	6	..	56	164	15	11	..	190	130	2	3	..	135	627	127	24	..	778
„ inspected once ..	25	14	..	..	39	139	15	4	..	158	108	2	2	..	112	522	113	7	..	642
„ „ twice ..	2	1	..	..	3	24	..	..	..	24	15	..	..	..	15	60	3	..	..	63
„ „ thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	3	5	..	..	..	5
„ „ four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	3
Total number inspected in 1891.	27	15	..	..	42	164	15	4	..	183	129	2	2	..	133	590	116	7	..	713
„ „ „ „ 1890	37	16	..	..	53	161	13	..	..	173	133	4	4	..	141	625	118	5	..	748

The Chief Commissioner regrets to notice that the amount of inspection work performed was not so great as in the preceding year, 713 gardens having been inspected, against 748 gardens in 1890 and 704 in 1889. A similar result is apparent in regard to the number of gardens inspected twice, which fell from 76 in the previous year to 63. The number of gardens inspected three and four times was 5 and 3 respectively, against 4 and *nil* during 1890.

In Cachar, of 181 gardens liable to inspection, only 145 were inspected during the year, leaving a balance of 36 uninspected gardens, of which 4 are in the sadr subdivision and 32 in the Hailákándi subdivision. The Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Clark) explains that the non-inspection of the Hailákándi gardens was due to a misunderstanding on his part, as he was under the impression that the Native Extra Assistant Commissioner, who was in charge of the subdivision, was not empowered to inspect gardens. This misunderstanding is much to be regretted, and should not have occurred. It was due to simple carelessness on the part of the Deputy Commissioner, whose special attention was more than once called to the necessity for completing all inspections before the close of the year, and the Chief Commissioner cannot accept it as in any way a sufficient excuse for the neglect which took place of this most important work. The Hailákándi gardens, which remained uninspected at the close of 1891, have since been inspected. The number of inspections carried out by the Deputy Commissioner was 30, and the bulk of the work was done by the Civil Surgeon and by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. In Sylhet, all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected with the exception of one which was newly opened in the latter part of the year. Two non-Act gardens (one with more than 50 coolies on it and the other with less than 50) were not inspected. Of the total number of inspections, 2 were carried out by the Deputy Commissioner and 12 by the Civil Surgeon. In Kámrúp, of 18 gardens liable to inspection, 17 were inspected. The uninspected garden was a non-Act garden employing more than 50 coolies, and the Deputy Commissioner explains that the non-inspection of this garden and of another non-Act garden employing less than 50 coolies was due to the fact that the gardens were not known to be subject to inspection until the returns for the second half-year had been received. Both these gardens will be inspected in the current year. Of the total number of inspections (26), 18 were carried out by the Deputy Commissioner. In Darrang only one garden of those liable to inspection remained uninspected at the close of the year; but this garden was visited by the Deputy Commissioner, although a formal inspection note was not recorded. Of the 76 gardens inspected, the Deputy Commissioner inspected 20. In Nowgong, of 50 gardens liable to inspection, 42 were inspected, the balance of uninspected gardens consisting of eight gardens all of which, with the exception of one, employ Act labour. All the gardens which remained uninspected at the close of 1891 were inspected during the opening months of 1892 with one exception. Of 42 inspections, 4 were performed by the Deputy Commissioner, 24 by the Civil Surgeon, and 14 by the District Superintendent of Police. The amount of work done by the Deputy Commissioner was exceptionally small in consequence of illness. In Sibságar all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected. Of the total number of inspections performed, the Deputy Commissioner undertook 29. In Lakhimpur all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected during

the year with the exception of two gardens which were opened towards the close of the year. The Deputy Commissioner undertook forty-one of the total inspections, and thus performed an adequate share of the work.

Looking at the results as a whole, the Chief Commissioner cannot say that they show improvement as compared with the results of the previous year, and it is clear, especially in the case of Sylhet, that the Deputy Commissioner in some instances failed to perform a sufficient amount of inspection work; but Mr. Ward is aware that the work of inspecting tea gardens forms a heavy addition to the duties of the district staff, and he has recently, in connection with the Special Report on the working of Act I of 1882, made proposals to the Government of India, which, if sanctioned, will hav the effect of providing a considerable measure of relief in this respect.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

49. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that, although there have been a few cases of occasional friction arising out of delay in the payment of wages and other similar causes, the relations between employers and labourers have been, on the whole, satisfactory. The Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet, Kámrúp, and Nowgong report that the relations between employers and labourers were generally good, but it is noteworthy that cases of rioting increased from 65 in the previous year to 106 during the year under report (see paragraph 26 of this report). This increase was due to the results in four districts, *viz.*, Cachar, Sylhet, Darrang, and Lakhimpur, the figures for the past two years being—

	Cases of rioting.	
	1890.	1891.
Cachar	12	28
Sylhet	6	41
Darrang	7	18
Lakhimpur	6	19

The rioting cases in Cachar were none of them of a serious type, and were mostly cases in which bodies of coolies endeavoured to intimidate managers or subordinate garden servants for various reasons. Some of the Sylhet cases were of a more serious type, and in one case the European manager of a garden was severely assaulted by a body of coolies. The Chief Commissioner has perused the record relating to this case, and he finds it admitted that the manager was the first to use force by striking, though not severely, a coolie whom he found to be idling. The man thus struck, who had been sentenced by the subdivisional officer to six months' rigorous imprisonment, was acquitted by the Sessions Judge on appeal. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, while expressing an opinion that the relations between employers and labourers were generally good, mentions the following cases :

(1) Twelve coolies of the Haleswar garden in the sadr subdivision were sent up for trial under section 147, Indian Penal Code. Six of the accused, Bhuiyans by caste, were driving a wild pig into the lines from the jungle. The other six accused abused the Bhuiyans, and there was a fight. Five men were sentenced to one month and five to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment each; two were discharged.

(2) Ten coolies of the Borjuli garden in the sadr subdivision, one of the largest tea estates in the district, were charged with rioting and abetment under sections 147 and 109, Indian Penal Code. The facts are briefly these : Mr. Creagh, an assistant at Borjuli, went, according to his daily custom, round the various sets of lines, which are scattered in various places over a large expanse of tea. His object was to make the coolies turn out to their work. In line No. 4 there had been a so-called *Karma puja* the day before, and the coolies had been up all night making merry and getting very drunk. Naturally, at daybreak there were several sore heads of the party, and Mr. Creagh's arrival in the lines must have struck many of the revellers as a very disagreeable incident. One Bijay sardár warned Mr. Creagh that the coolies did not mean to turn out. It was obviously Mr. Creagh's duty, however, to overcome the half drunken reluctance of the coolies, and he pressed on. Some of the coolies, chiefly the women, apparently did turn out. But Bijay told Mr. Creagh that there were others in a passage between two of the huts in the lines who refused to turn out. These Mr. Creagh approached. The men were sulky and obstinate, and refused to speak. Mr. Creagh's account of what followed is that finding his admonitions of no avail, he turned to Bijay sardár, who was behind him, and was

astonished to find that this man had his stick raised to beat him. He knocked Bijay down in self-defence, and was then assaulted by all the accused persons, and finally had to retreat towards the bungalow, pursued by all the accused persons. One man was sentenced to eighteen months', two to one year's, and five to six months' rigorous imprisonment each, and two were acquitted.

(3) The accused, a coolie of Pratabgarh tea estate, took the complainant, another coolie of the same garden, to the jungle on the pretence of getting firewood. There he demanded money from the complainant, and as the complainant did not give it, he inflicted a wound upon him and robbed him of Rs. 36. The accused admitted this, and was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 under section 392, Indian Penal Code.

(4) The complainant was a sardár of the Ketela garden, and the accused was a cart-driver. On the day of occurrence, the complainant with several sardárs waited in front of the garden office doorway to report the daily work done by the coolies, when the accused, coming there on a sudden, struck the complainant on the back of the neck with a *dao*, and then struck three blows—two on the back and one across the right cheek, inflicting dangerous wounds. The accused confessed and pleaded guilty to the charge, and stated that the complainant with four others gave him a severe beating in November 1890, having had a quarrel. The accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment with three months' solitary confinement under section 326, Indian Penal Code.

(5) In one case of unlawful assembly, eleven coolies of the Rowta tea garden were convicted under section 143, Indian Penal Code, by Babu Chandra Kanta Sen, Extra Assistant Commissioner. The accused persons were members of the gang of immigrants, the excessive mortality among whom has been described elsewhere. They appeared to have been in ill-health and in ill spirits, and were disinclined to work. When pressure was brought to bear, they went in a body to the manager's bungalow, armed with sticks, and threatened to beat him and the muharrir. Some of the older coolies came to the rescue, and the 'unlawful assembly' appears to have been dispersed without much trouble. This occurred on the 2nd May, three days after the new coolies' arrival on the garden. It seems to me a pity that coolies (admittedly an extremely poor and unhealthy gang) were put to work so soon, and it is still more to be regretted that they were prosecuted. The sentences inflicted were, however, light. Two were sentenced to one week's rigorous imprisonment, and nine to be imprisoned for one week only. The matter was not brought prominently to my notice till the garden was inspected by me in November last. It was only then that I discovered that the mortality, which has exceeded 3½ per cent. in the first half-year of 1891, was almost entirely confined to this one unhappy gang. When the case of unlawful assembly occurred, the garden was not unhealthy, inasmuch as this gang had only just arrived, and no deaths had taken place among its members. For acclimatised coolies Rowta has always been healthy enough. I shall shortly call a committee to consider whether any new coolies should be admitted to the garden. The manager has removed his lines to a better and healthier site, and is digging wells. But I think that, for a time at all events, no new coolies should be admitted to this garden under the Act.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports as follows :

The few sensational cases that occurred last year are not sufficient in my opinion to justify an assumption that relations between employers and labourers have shown any retrogressive tendency. I still think that their relations are on the whole good, the exceptions being where the manager is a man of bad character, or where he leaves matters too much in the hands of his subordinates.

* * * * *

Speaking generally, the tone of the planters in these matters is decidedly good, and the exceptional instances, such as we have had to deal with last year, meet with the utmost disapproval among the older and more experienced managers.

The following are particulars of the more important cases brought by coolies against managers. The mother of one Banu, a boy of about fifteen years of age, executed on his behalf a civil contract to labour on the garden of which Mr. Dunne is manager. He was enticed from the garden, but was arrested and brought before Mr. Dunne, who sent him to the thána with a vernacular letter, stating that the boy had been enticed away and caught. The police sent up the boy for trial as a deserter. The boy was in consequence kept in confinement or illegal custody for a good part of two days. Eventually the boy was discharged, and Mr. Dunne was convicted of the offence of wrongful confinement under section 342, Indian Penal Code, and fined Rs. 100.

The accused, Mr. Gibbons, manager of Banfera, wrote to the head constable of the Sonari thána that he would supply two carts for the Manipur expedition, and requested him to send a constable to take the carts and cartmen. He had previously asked one Kanchan syce, a free labourer on the garden, to give an agreement, giving him the alternative of signing a contract or going to Manipur. The coolie having refused to sign the agreement was sent with the carts in charge of a constable. In the meanwhile, however, the police received information, in consequence of which Kanchan was released, and Mr. Gibbons was put on his trial before a jury under sections 420, 511, 342, and 385, Indian Penal Code. The jury found him not guilty on the first two charges, but were divided as to the charge under section 385, Indian Penal Code. The case was then referred to the High Court, which discharged the accused.

Some Kachari coolies of Mr. Hitchin's garden complained that Mr. Hitchin had induced them to return all their money to him and had then embezzled it. The magistrate found that the coolies voluntarily kept money with the accused for safe custody. As the latter was transferred to another garden, the complainants found difficulty in recovering the money, and brought the case. The accused was acquitted, and the money was returned to the coolies.

One Charles Arthur Browne gave a slap and about half a dozen cuts with a stick to a coolie for being absent from his work and impertinent. He was fined Rs. 15 under section 352, Indian Penal Code.

A case of violent and unprovoked assault with a cane was brought by a coolie against the manager of Deering. He was fined Rs. 42 under section 352, Indian Penal Code.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes :

The relations between employers and labourers have been generally satisfactory except in a few unhealthy and unpopular gardens. The case of the Khobang garden has been specially reported. A large number of Rewa coolies struck work, declaring that they had come up for four months only. They came into the station *en masse* in spite of the protests of the manager, and made various complaints, which were enquired into. They were sent back, and shortly after there was a riot on the garden, in the course of which the manager was seriously assaulted. The allegations of fraudulent recruitment and ill-treatment were disproved. The coolies were from a new labour district, and did not like to work. Being strong in number, they thought they could take the law into their own hands. They have now settled down, and when I last inspected the garden, there were no complaints on either side.

In two other cases batches of coolies came to complain of overwork, insufficient food, &c.

In one case a superintendent sent in a large number of Ganjami coolies, who insisted on coming into cutcherry. I sent the coolies back, and made a local enquiry. Their complaint against the sardár was at once remedied by the superintendent. The tendency for coolies to come in numbers to complain in court appears to be increasing, and employers urge with justice that there should be a penalty for coolies leaving the garden when the procedure of section 134 has been complied with.

The cases referred to above are the exception to the general rule which came before the courts, and the state of the relations between employers and employed can be best judged from the comparatively small number of such complaints from the result of inspections and visits to gardens.

Relations between the tea garden population and the villagers.

50. Although cases of friction occasionally occur, there can be no doubt that the garden population, as a general rule, live on friendly terms with the natives of the country. On this subject the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar (Mr. Pittar) writes :

As far as I have seen, I can only describe these as excellent. I have been pleased to see cases in which the villagers have made the nearest planter their mouthpiece in communicating their wants to the district officer, and to observe the interest taken in the villagers' concerns. It is entirely to the interest of managers to cultivate friendly relations with villagers, for by doing so they not only get labour and materials when most required, but their coolies are enabled to make the most of their pay by buying paddy cheaply from villagers, and thus saving money for other kinds of food or for investment in cattle or land, which ties them to the garden.

General condition of labourers.

51. There is nothing new to report under this head, and it is unnecessary to do more than to refer to paragraphs 125-167 of the Special Report, where the matter has been very fully treated.

Settlement of time-expired garden labourers on the land.

52. The figures below show the amount of land held direct from Government by immigrants in the various districts of the province :

District.	1890. Acres.	1891. Acres.
Cachar	7,133	7,365
Sylhet	300	1,208*
Kámrúp	42	42
Darrang	7,454	8,327
Nowgong	1,895	2,069
Sibságar	10,639	11,732
Lakhimpur	4,897	5,724
Total	32,360	36,467

The increase is common to all districts except Kámrúp, but, as has been remarked on previous occasions, there can be little doubt that the figures do not embody complete information. Thus, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports :

Time-expired coolies have also settled in *mirasdari* land, but of the extent of land so held I have no record. A very large number of coolies still employed on gardens also cultivate land, mostly portions of the garden land. As a rule, they hold rent free, managers being only too glad to see them cultivate, as though it takes up a part of their time, it prevents their absconding, and is in many ways advantageous.

And the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes :

The figures showing the amount of land held by immigrants in this district exhibit an increase of 827 acres over the figures of 1890. Of the total area, 4,795 acres are in the sadr subdivision, and 929 acres in the North Lakhimpur subdivision. Both show an increase. These figures only refer to coolies holding land, and even as regards them cannot be considered complete. Testing of measurements has lately shown that many coolies escape assessment.

* Of these, 88 acres were held direct from Government
Ditto 763 ditto ditto the managers of tea gardens.
Ditto 357 ditto ditto other landholders.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Census taken during the year under review, which relates to this matter :

It would be interesting if the results of the census could be utilised to throw light on the question as to how far tea garden coolies settle down in the province after the expiry of their agreements, which has from time to time formed the subject of enquiry or speculation. Unfortunately, exact figures are not available to show how many of the foreign born came to the province as garden coolies. From the more detailed information regarding the birth place of foreigners, which has been furnished at the present census, it is possible to frame a fairly accurate approximation to the real proportion, but the same particulars are not available in the return for 1881. We may, however, I think, assume that the immigrants to tea gardens in 1881 bore the same proportion to the total number of immigrants which is estimated to exist in the return for the present census. On this assumption, the increase in this section of the immigrant population during the decennium amounts to 190,952.

The annual number of immigrants to tea gardens is known from the statistics maintained under the Labour Act, an abstract of which is given in the margin. Calculating the death rate among these new arrivals to amount to 40 per 1,000, the total increase during the decade would have amounted to 215,622, if none of these immigrants had left the province. If, therefore, my estimate of the proportion of the tea garden emigrants to the total number of immigrants in 1881 and 1891 and my estimate of the death rate is correct, it appears that the real increase amongst this class is less by 24,670 than it would have been had none of them returned to their country. In other words, not more than 24,670 out of the total number of garden immigrants returned to their country during the decade. Roughly speaking, it may be said that at the most only 5 to 10 per cent. of the coolie population leave Assam after their agreements have expired.

Statement showing the annual immigration to tea gardens as reported in the labour returns.

Year.	Number of immigrants.	Number remaining in 1891 at an annual decrement of 40 per 1,000.
1881	14,548	9,672
1882	19,185	13,286
1883	26,390	19,036
1884	32,747	24,608
1885	21,147	16,553
1886	22,715	18,521
1887	29,990	24,707
1888	33,317	29,476
1889	37,548	34,604
1890	26,205	25,157
Total	262,892	215,622

* * * * *

The total number of foreign born coolies on tea gardens amounts to 326,086, so that out or 423,199 persons who are estimated to have originally entered the province as coolies, 97,113 have left the gardens and settled down to other pursuits, as cartmen, petty traders, domestic servants, &c. The quantity of land held direct from Government by ex-tea garden coolies is returned as 25,315 acres in 1888, 28,376 in 1889, and 32,360 in 1890. Although these figures do not include the area cultivated by time-expired immigrants on land other than what they hold direct from Government, and although the whole of the land so held is probably not included, nevertheless, as there has been no change in the manner of collecting this information during these three years, these figures, defective as they are, may be taken as proving that the amount of land reclaimed by this class is rapidly increasing, and that the annual immigration to tea gardens is a gain not only to the tea industry, for which the coolies are in the first instance imported, but also to the general development of the province.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

53. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1891-92 :

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.	Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Medical	58 12 10	.....	58 12 10	Salaries of depôt establishments (including native doctors, hospital assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menials).	8,875 8 3	1,414 8 3	10,290 0 6
Contractors' license fees under section 13	.....	700 0 0	700 0 0				
Recruiters' license fees under section 24	36 14 0	704 0 0	740 14 0	Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs) ..	11,955 13 5	23 4 3	11,979 1 8
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68	.....	12,877 4 0	12,877 4 0				
Fees for licenses of inland steamer and native boats under section 90.	640 8 0	863 12 0	1,504 4 0				
Rates under section 109 ..	53,878 5 6	.....	53,878 5 6				
Fees for use of debarkation depôts..	2,232 6 0	.....	2,232 6 0	Contingent charges ..	905 10 3	66 5 3	971 15 6
Diet, &c., charges recovered ..	1,781 14 9	.....	1,781 14 9	Grants to dispensaries ..	5,430 0 0	.....	5,430 0 0
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospital	702 14 3	.....	702 14 3	Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers ..	15,728 14 10*	6,116 0 8	21,844 15 6
Cash recoveries	.....	0 11 3	0 11 3	Clerks and servants ..	8,481 9 10	4,676 8 10	13,158 2 8
Fines and miscellaneous ..	101 12 8	17 14 0	119 10 8	Travelling allowances ..	474 15 9	1,108 13 3	1,583 13 0
				Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit, establishments, refunds, pensions)	2,609 10 7	1,758 0 9	4,367 11 4
Total	59,433 8 0	15,163 9 3	74,597 1 3	Total	54,462 2 11	15,163 9 3	69,625 12 2

* Inclusive of Rs. 5,835-14-5 in adjustment of the deficit in the Bengal portion of the Fund.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

F. C. DAUKES,

The 6th September 1892. *Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.*

STATEMENTS.

Return showing the Statistics of Labour Force of the Tea Gardens

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Classes of Labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during the year 1891.												Total of columns 2 and 14.
		Imported.			Otherwise than by importation.									
		By contractors.	By garden sardars.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contracts.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	
Cachar .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	8,113	876	1,520	....	900	173	164	27	....	....	....	....	3,660	11,773
Cachar .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	47,138	....	....	2,393	....	..	569	..	3,571	4,836	....	916	12,285	59,423
Cachar .. Non-Act labourers Children..	44,605	....	....	736	....	..	183	..	62	1,259	2,898	....	5,138	49,743
Total	99,856	876	1,520	3,129	900	173	916	27	3,633	6,095	2,898	916	21,083	120,939
Sylhet .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	8,853	76	410	....	2,140	2	190	27	....	....	....	....	2,845	11,698
Sylhet .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	41,456	....	....	7,567	....	..	1,261	..	2,413	2,765	....	622	14,628	56,084
Sylhet .. Non-Act labourers Children..	32,408	....	....	3,891	....	..	615	..	....	883	2,580	....	7,969	40,377
Total	82,717	76	410	11,458	2,140	2	2,066	27	2,413	3,648	2,580	622	25,442	108,159
Surma Valley Act-I labourers (adults) ..	16,966	952	1,930	....	3,040	175	354	54	....	....	....	....	6,505	23,471
Surma Valley Non-Act labourers Adults ..	88,594	....	....	9,960	....	..	1,830	..	5,984	7,601	....	1,538	26,913	115,507
Surma Valley Non-Act labourers Children .	77,013	....	....	4,647	....	..	798	..	62	2,142	5,478	....	13,107	90,120
Total	182,573	952	1,930	14,587	3,040	175	2,982	54	6,046	9,743	5,478	1,538	46,525	229,098
Kámrúp .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	657	194	173	....	20	1	13	5	....	....	....	....	406	1,063
Kámrúp .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	1,281	....	....	156	....	..	214	..	31	212	....	93	706	1,987
Kámrúp .. Non-Act labourers Children .	1,074	....	....	179	....	..	90	..	....	77	96	....	442	1,516
Total	3,012	194	173	335	20	1	317	5	31	289	96	93	1,554	4,566
Darrang .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	18,848	3,304	1,628	....	3,814	91	131	116	....	....	....	....	9,084	27,932
Darrang .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	11,009	....	....	292	....	..	135	..	2,423	3,494	....	894	7,238	18,247
Darrang .. Non-Act labourers Children .	13,414	....	....	1,837	....	..	58	..	....	255	1,066	....	3,216	16,630
Total	43,271	3,304	1,628	2,129	3,814	91	324	116	2,423	3,749	1,066	894	19,538	62,809
Nowgong .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	3,250	493	524	....	299	10	90	6	....	....	....	....	1,422	4,672
Nowgong .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	6,615	....	....	685	....	..	84	..	325	989	....	126	2,209	8,824
Nowgong .. Non-Act labourers Children .	5,484	....	....	492	....	..	33	..	....	148	392	....	1,065	6,549
Total	15,349*	493	524	1,177	299	10	207	6	325	1,137	592	126	4,696	20,045
Sibságar .. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	35,152	3,990	2,499	....	7,988	557	743	106	....	....	....	....	15,883	57,035
Sibságar .. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	20,578	....	....	458	....	..	333	..	4,270	2,852	....	819	8,782	29,360
Sibságar .. Non-Act labourers Children .	35,504	....	....	2,405	....	..	202	..	....	393	2,599	....	5,599	41,103
Total	91,234	3,990	2,499	2,863	7,988	557	1,328	106	4,270	3,245	2,599	819	30,264	121,498
Lakhimpur. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	27,031	7,138	2,487	....	3,095	223	517	196	....	....	....	....	13,656	40,687
Lakhimpur. Not-Act labourers Adults ..	19,376	....	....	1,076	....	..	479	..	3,387	1,941	....	501	7,384	26,760
Lakhimpur. Not-Act labourers Children .	26,294	....	....	2,429	....	..	216	..	....	367	1,926	....	4,938	31,232
Total	72,701	7,138	2,487	3,505	3,095	223	1,212	196	3,387	2,308	1,926	501	25,978	98,679
Brahmaputra Valley. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	84,938	15,119	7,311	....	15,216	882	1,494	429	....	....	....	....	40,451	125,389
Brahmaputra Valley. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	58,859	....	....	2,667	....	..	1,295	..	10,436	9,488	....	2,433	26,319	85,178
Brahmaputra Valley. Non-Act labourers Children..	81,770	....	....	7,342	....	..	599	..	....	1,240	6,079	....	15,260	97,030
Total	225,567	15,119	7,311	10,009	15,216	882	3,388	429	10,436	10,728	6,079	2,433	82,030	307,597
Total for the Province. Act-I labourers (adults) ..	101,904	16,071	9,241	....	18,256	1,057	1,848	483	....	....	....	....	46,956	148,860
Total for the Province. Non-Act labourers Adults ..	147,453	....	....	12,627	....	..	3,125	..	16,420	17,089	....	3,971	53,232	200,685
Total for the Province. Non-Act labourers Children..	158,783	....	....	11,969	....	..	1,397	..	62	5,562	11,557	....	28,367	187,150
Total	408,140*	16,071	9,241	24,596	18,256	1,057	6,370	483	16,482	20,471	11,557	3,971	128,555	536,695

* The difference of 10 labourers between these two entries and those shown in column 31 of the statement against Nowgong and total at the end of the Report them in the return for the half-year ending 31st December 1890. These 10 coolies were entered twice, and have, therefore, been omitted now.

† Revised figures 116.

in the Province of Assam during the year 1891.

16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
Deductions made during the year 1891.																	Number remaining at the end of the year 1891.	Strength on 1st July 1891.	Annual strength.		
Transfer to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	Deaths.		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Cancelment under section 111, 140, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 129.	Suspended under section 120.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.			First half-year.	Second half-year.	Death rate per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.																
164	....	216	417	282	393	..	....	....	. ..	....	..	..	3,391	1	38	4,902	6,871	7,927	8,020	7,399	83·2
569	3,628	885	891	1,253	1,066	..	458	50	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	8,800	50,623	50,485	48,812	50,554	35·7
183	1,735	782	709	198	399	916	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,913	44,830	44,664	44,634	44,747	33·1
916	5,363	1,883	2,008	1,733	1,858	916	458	50	....	....	..	..	3,391	1	38	18,615	102,324	103,076	101,466	102,700	38·0
216	....	196	194	322	224	..	....	....	1	10	..	..	2,771	..	2	3,936	7,762	7,531	8,192	7,646	49·2
229	4,115	727	1,029	1,343	1,135	..	797	4	....	....	..	..	....	.	..	9,379	46,705	46,564	44,610	46,634	38·5
110	1,463	549	534	480	323	622	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	4,081	36,296	34,818	33,613	35,557	31·3
555	5,578	1,472	1,757	2,145	1,682	622	797	4	1	10	..	..	2,771	..	2	17,396	98,763	88,913	85,815	89,838	36·7
380	....	412	611	604	617	..	....	....	1	10	..	..	6,162	1	40	8,838	14,633	15,458	16,212	15,045	66·0
798	7,743	1,612	1,920	2,596	2,201	..	1,255	54	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	18,179	97,328	97,049	92,822	97,188	37·1
293	3,198	1,331	1,234	678	722	1,538	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	8,994	81,126	79,482	78,247	80,304	32·3
1,471	10,941	3,355	3,765	3,878	3,540	1,538	1,255	54	1	10	..	..	6,162	1	40	36,011	193,087	191,989	187,281	192,538	37·4
9	....	44	47	36	39	..	....	....	....	1	..	..	35	..	2	213	850	883	745	842	114·8
6	242	51	30	71	49	..	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	449	1,538	1,577	1,429	1,557	54·8
..	107	35	23	26	9	93	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	293	1,223	1,231	1,152	1,227	49·0
15	349	130	100	133	97	93	....	....	....	1	..	..	35	..	2	955	3,611	3,641	3,326	3,626	66·5
131	....	450	590	363	385	..	....	....	9	23	..	..	3,615	..	35	5,601	22,231	21,384	20,116	21,857	49·2
135	4,015	186	156	133	186	..	2,330	79	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	7,220	11,027	11,505	11,257	11,266	30·3
58	1,108	242	303	6	63	894	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,674	13,956	13,397	13,405	13,677	40·1
324	5,123	878	1,049	502	634	894	2,330	79	9	23	..	..	3,615	..	35	15,495	47,314	46,286	44,778	46,800	42·0
90	....	88	120	49	81	..	....	....	....	51	..	..	374	..	5	858	3,814	3,726	3,488	3,770	57·0
75	1,285	134	136	125	59	..	229	10	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	2,053	6,771	7,419	7,017	7,095	38·1
31	305	85	109	32	24	126	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	.	712	5,837	5,824	5,654	5,830	33·6
196	1,590	307	365	206	164	126	229	10	....	51	..	..	374	..	5	3,623	16,422	16,969	16,159	16,695	40·7
743	....	651	910	457	538	..	....	....	8	144	..	..	9,619	3	9	13,082	37,953	37,618	36,385	37,785	41·8
345	3,694	271	256	293	288	..	2,089	200	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	8,336	21,024	22,574	21,576	21,799	24·2
197	1,341	411	559	163	164	819	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,654	37,449	36,942	36,223	37,195	26·3
1285	5,035	1,333	1,725	913	990	819	2,089	200	8	144	..	..	9,619	3	9	25,072	96,476	97,134	94,184	96,780	31·9
537	..	650	843	481	673	..	....	....	....	414	..	..	4,952	2	47	8,599	32,088	30,963	28,997	31,525	49·1
327	2,836	271	343	178	178	..	2,080	52	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	6,265	10,495	20,921	20,148	20,703	29·9
228	1,636	281	437	119	62	501	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	3,264	27,968	27,618	26,956	27,793	26·1
1,092	4,472	1,202	1,623	778	913	501	2,080	52	....	414	..	..	4,952	2	47	18,128	80,551	79,502	76,101	80,026	36·1
1,510	....	1,883	2,510	1,386	1,716	..	....	....	17	633	..	..	18,595	5	98	28,353	97,026	94,524	89,731	95,780	47·1
888	12,072	913	991	809	760	..	7,628	341	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	24,323	66,855	63,396	61,427	62,425	29·6
514	4,497	1,054	1,431	346	322	2,432	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	10,597	86,433	85,012	83,891	85,722	29·3
2,912	16,569	3,850	4,862	2,532	2,798	2,433	7,628	341	17	633	..	..	18,595	5	98	63,273	244,324	243,932	234,519	243,928	36·3
1,890	....	2,295	3,191	1,990	2,233	..	....	....	18	643	..	..	24,757	6	138	37,191	111,669	109,982	105,943	110,825	49·8
1,686	19,815	2,525	2,841	3,396	2,961	..	8,883	395	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	42,502	158,183	161,945	154,219	158,614	24·1
807	7,695	2,385	2,665	1,024	1,044	3,971	....	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	19,591	167,559	164,494	161,638	166,926	30·7
4,383	27,510	7,205	8,627	6,410	6,238	3,971	8,883	395	18	643	..	..	24,757	6	138	99,284	437,411	435,521	421,830	436,466	36·8

for 1890, is due to the fact that one manager omitted 10 coolies from his return (No. 51) for the half-year ending the 30th June 1891, though he had wrongly shown

A. S. P. O. (Judicial) No. 100—300 —23-9-92.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX A.

[EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS BY CIVIL SURGEONS AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS ON GARDENS UNHEALTHY FOR THE YEAR 1891—(1) ON ACT POPULATION ONLY, (2) ON NON-ACT POPULATION ONLY, AND (3) ON ACT AND NON-ACT POPULATION TAKEN TOGETHER.]

CACHAR.

(1) DALUCHERRA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
3 cholera.	2 cholera.
1 fever.	
4	2

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
7 cholera.	2 cholera.
5 fever.	1 fever.
12	3

I have advised the manager to have the immediate neighbourhood of the lines and round the huts dug up and well hoed, and to establish a central hospital immediately under the supervision of the medical officer. The water-supply in the garden is good, and I found no fault with it if the coolies can be induced to use none but good water. The local *hát* is well supplied with all necessary food-supplies.

(2) MYRACHERRA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
4 dysentery.	1 diarrhœa.
	10 dysentery.
4	11

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 diarrhœa.	2 debility.
3 debility.	1 diarrhœa.
1 dysentery.	1 dysentery.
1 fever.	2 fever.
7	6

I have advised the manager to have the immediate neighbourhood of the lines and round the huts dug up and well hoed, and to establish a central hospital immediately under the supervision of the medical officer. The water-supply in the garden is good, and I found no fault with it if the coolies can be induced to use none but good water. The local *hát* is well supplied with all necessary food-supplies.

(3) DULARGRAM (*inspected on the 29th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 cholera.	5 cholera.
2 dysentery.	1 accident.
1 debility.	3 fever.
1 dropsy.	3 dropsy.
1 diarrhœa.	
7	12

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 debility.	6 fever.
4 dysentery.	4 diarrhœa.
5 dropsy.	6 dysentery.
2 diarrhœa.	2 cholera.
3 pneumonia.	1 phthisis.
1 bronchitis.	2 infantile.
	1 bronchitis.
	1 debility.
16	23

The garden would not have appeared in the high mortality list had it not been for nine cases of cholera, nine of *beri-beri*, influenza ten, hæmorrhage after childbirth one ; also six of the deaths occurred in old people of 70 to 80 years of age. Some of the deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa were due to the after-effects of influenza and also to *anchylostomiasis*, but no record has been kept. The lines are well situated and drained as often reported. Water-supply good and ample ; a *hát* well supplied with all food stuffs held weekly. The sick list for the day was not heavy ; there are still, however, cases of *anchylostomiasis* amongst the coolies and in the batches of new ones. I have instructed the manager to have the ground near the lines dug up now and again.

Deputy Commissioner—

The Civil Surgeon appears to consider this garden not unhealthy on the whole. It appeared on the 'black list', however, last year also, and will require to be carefully watched.

(4) TIKALPAR (UPPER AND LOWER) AND SALGANGA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 dysentery.	2 dropsy.
1 pneumonia.	1 bronchitis.
	1 phthisis.
	1 pneumonia.
	3 cholera.
	2 diarrhœa.
	5 fever.
	1 leprosy.
2	16

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
7 dysentery.	9 dysentery.
5 dropsy.	3 cholera.
4 fever.	3 diarrhœa.
1 cholera.	2 fever.
2 pneumonia.	1 apoplexy.
19	18

There are three gardens, but all join one another, and the coolies from each work in all, according to the exigencies of the labour required. If the percentage had been separately taken for each garden, the death rate would not have been high on any of them. Influenza was very bad in them, sixty or more being on the sick list at one time. Nearly half the total number of deaths were due to the after-effects of this disease. Cholera caused seven deaths. There does not appear to be much *beri-beri* in this garden, but a few of the dropsy, dysentery, and diarrhœa cases were undoubtedly due to this disease. No separate list was kept showing exactly the number affected by *anchylostomiasis*. All the lines (there are several) are clean and well drained ; huts well built and on good sites ; water (tanks and wells) good and abundant. A river close to some of them (the Tikal) is used for bathing purposes, and no doubt for drinking as well by some of the lines, but they are not supposed to use it for the latter purpose. It is impossible, however, to prevent this. *Hát* well supplied, on the garden, once a week.

Deputy Commissioner—

The second half of the year is usually the more unhealthy ; but the curious feature of the above figures is that while the number of deaths among Act coolies in the second half was more than nine times that in the first half, non-Act labour showed an increase of two only, or about 12 per cent. Probably this is only an accident ; at the same time it is to be regretted that the Civil Surgeon has not in his report touched upon the point.

(5) PATHICHERRA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 dysentery.	2 diarrhœa.
1 dropsy.	4 dropsy.
	1 cholera.
	1 pneumonia.
2	8

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
12 dysentery.	3 pneumonia.
4 dropsy.	2 dysentery.
1 pneumonia.	2 dropsy.
	1 syphilis.
17	8

Beri-beri was very rife amongst newly-imported coolies ; all the dropsy (eleven cases) were fatal ; much of the dysentery and diarrhœa also was due to this disease, but unfortunately no list of those who died from this disease and who were suffering from *anchylostomiasis* has been kept. Influenza was also bad in this garden, forty to fifty cases being on the sick list at one time or another. The pneumonia cases (five) were all affected with influenza, and some of the dysentery and diarrhœa, but no separate list has been kept. The *beri-beri* cases arrived mostly too far gone with the disease for the *thymol* or any other treatment to be of any avail. This garden is not singular in this. The lines are neat and clean, and in an open and well-drained spot of ground near the centre of the garden. Water (wells and a hill stream) good and abundant. A well-supplied local *hát* is held on the garden once a week.

Deputy Commissioner—

Dysentery is noted as the cause of 15 out of the 35 deaths amongst all classes, but, as stated by the Civil Surgeon, some of these deaths were really due to *anchylostomiasis*. It is unfortunate that no separate record of the deaths due to this disease has been kept.

(6) THAILU (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 dysentery.	4 fever.
1 dropsy.	4 dysentery.
1 small-pox.	1 pneumonia.
	2 cholera.
	1 leprosy.
	4 small-pox.
	1 diarrhœa.
4	17

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 asthma.	6 fever.
1 miscarriage.	4 pneumonia.
11 dysentery.	2 diarrhœa.
3 dropsy.	9 dysentery.
2 *beri-beri*.	4 cholera.
2 fever.	3 dropsy.
2 pneumonia.	4 influenza.
4 cholera.	1 *beri-beri*.
2 diarrhœa.	
28	33

The same here in this garden as in the other Tarapur Tea Company's factories, *viz.*, severe outbreak of influenza, but of which only four cases have been returned from that disease ; but the medical officer (Dr. Dundee) reports that many of the pneumonia, bronchitis, and dysentery cases were due to the after-effects of the disease proving fatal. There were also numerous cases of *beri-beri*, but no proper record has been kept. There were also 10 fatal cases of cholera.

(7) DEWAN (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 cholera.	1 diarrhœa.
2 dropsy.	7 cholera.
	1 worms.
	8 fever.
	2 asthma.
	6 dysentery.
	3 dropsy.
3	28

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
9 dysentery.	1 fever.
1 fever.	2 dysentery.
4 cholera.	3 cholera.
2 pneumonia.	4 dropsy.
3 dropsy.	2 pneumonia.
1 apoplexy.	3 child-bed.
20	15

Influenza was bad in this garden, and accounts for all the pneumonia and some of the dysentery cases; but no distinction has been made in the returns as to what coolies died of it after the weakening effects of the epidemic. *Anchylostomiasis* was also prevalent. All the dropsy (12 cases) and some of the dysentery cases were due to this disease. Cholera (15 cases) fatal.

(10) ROSEKANDI, ROSEPUR, AND ETIPUR (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
3 cholera.	11 cholera.
2 *anchylostomiasis.*	3 dysentery.
	2 fever.
	2 bronchitis.
	2 *anchylostomiasis.*
	1 tetanus.
	1 measles.
	1 hepatitis.
	1 pneumonia.
	2 convulsions.
5	26

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
15 *anchylostomiasis.*	13 *anchylostomiasis.*
2 diarrhœa,	2 cholera.
3 dysentery.	2 pneumonia.
1 pneumonia.	2 bronchitis.
1 asthma.	2 dysentery.
	1 fever.
22	22

The death rate has been 16 from cholera, 32 from *anchylostomiasis*. Most of the pneumonia, bronchitis, and fever cases were undoubtedly due to a weakening of the system after influenza, a great number of the coolies being affected by this disease during last year. I beg to send a copy of Mr. Mounsey's letter, dated the 17th February 1892, to me on the present high mortality, which will show the steps he is taking to prevent, as far as possible, more excessive mortality. I would draw attention more particularly to the wells and means of procuring water that he is introducing and the total removing of the lines. This latter I consider of vast importance.

Copy of a letter from the Manager of Rosekandi Tea Estate, dated the 17th February 1892, to the Civil Surgeon, Cachar.

Your letter of the 13th instant to hand regarding the high mortality on the garden during the half-year ending 31st December 1891. The one return covers the three gardens—Rosekandi, Rosepur, (Mains), and Etipur. Most of the Act coolies are at Mains; and from the returns you will see that

rom 184 Act coolies there were 22 deaths (10·75 per cent.), 15 of which were from *beri-beri*. Out of 1,559 non-Act coolies, 21 died, making a percentage of 1·33. The total of Act and non-Act coolies was therefore 1,743, and the total number of deaths 43, or 2·46 per cent. From this you will see that the high mortality was only among the Act coolies, and that they were mostly carried off by *beri-beri*. I have done away with the Mains station altogether, and am building lines on an entirely new site. I am putting down well-rings from Burn and Company, Calcutta, and each well will be covered in, and will have a pump and iron cistern. I shall have no tanks at the station. There is a good stream near, in which the coolies can wash. There was a great deal of fever at Mains, which very possibly was really influenza.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was unhealthy upon Act labour only. Thirty-two deaths are recorded as due to *anchylostomiasis*, against eighteen from the same cause last year, but this increase is probably wholly due to improved diagnosis. Nothing appears to have been left undone, and we can now only wait and see what the results of the current year are.

(11) KUMBIRGRAM (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 cholera.	5 cholera.
1 diarrhœa.	2 pneumonia.
1 fever.	1 bronchitis.
1 dysentery.	4 dysentery.
	1 apoplexy.
	1 jaundice.
	4 fever.
5	18

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
3 dysentery.	1 cholera.
1 phthisis.	1 drowning.
1 pneumonia.	1 bronchitis.
1 insanity.	2 pneumonia.
	1 fever.
	7 dysentery.
	3 diarrhœa.
	2 jaundice.
6	18

The deaths are mostly due to the after-effects of the prevailing epidemic—influenza, with the exception of cholera (8), apoplexy (1), jaundice (3), drowning (1). All of these were entered as pulmonary complaints—pneumonia, bronchitis, phthisis, and many of the dysentery and diarrhœa cases were all attacked by influenza. *Beri-beri* has not affected this garden to any great extent.

(12) SONACHERRA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
6 dysentery.	3 bronchitis.
1 fever.	3 dysentery.
1 dropsy.	2 fever.
	1 infantile.
8	9

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 dropsy.	1 cholera.
1 dysentery.	2 dysentery.
1 rheumatism.	1 apoplexy.
	2 convulsions
	2 fever.
4	8

I have advised the manager to have the immediate neighbourhood of the lines and round the huts dug up and well hoed, and to establish a central hospital immediately under the supervision of the medical officer. The water-supply in the garden is good, and I found no fault with it if the coolies can be induced to use none but good water. The local *hát* is well supplied with all necessary food-supplies.

(13) MARTICHERRA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 cholera.	6 cholera.
1 diarrhœa.	1 phthisis.
1 dysentery.	1 dropsy.
1 fever.	1 bronchitis.
	1 fever.
	1 diarrhœa.
5	11

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
3 cholera.	2 cholera.
5 dysentery.	1 dropsy.
	1 dysentery.
	2 fever.
8	6

Deaths of children not given. The deaths have been principally due to cholera (13). Influenza also affected this garden like all the neighbouring ones. There have been a few cases of *anchylostomiasis* also amongst the coolie population. The water-supply here is good (wells and hill streams), and the lines are well placed, and there is good natural drainage. The usual weekly *hát* is held here, well supplied with all necessary food stuffs.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was unhealthy also in 1888 and 1889. This year its position appears to be due chiefly, if not entirely, to an outbreak of cholera. I inspected this garden in December 1891, and am satisfied that all reasonable care is taken of the coolies.

(14) LALAMUKH OR HASIURA (*inspected on the 17th December 1891*).

Civil Surgeon—

The whole of the coolies were mustered for my inspection. I noticed only a few suffering with the symptoms of *anchylostomiasis*. I may here mention that Mr. Ross, the manager, has the coolies all mustered every Monday, and he and the native doctor examine each individual coolie, and any showing signs of disease of any kind are at once sent to hospital. This plan has worked well, and if other gardens would do the same, much benefit would be derived in the early detection of disease. The number of sick on the day of inspection was as follows :

4 (*beri-beri*) *anchylostomiasis.*	
1 debility.	
2 dysentery.	
1 bronchitis.	
1 rheumatism.	
Total ...	9

A very slight sick list, considering that there are upwards of 221 Act coolies and 1,010 non-Act coolies, a total of 1,231.

The number of deaths from all causes from 1st January 1891 to date of my inspection was—

9 *anchylostomiasis.*	
13 dysentery.*	
4 dropsy.	
4 cholera.	
1 diarrhœa.	
1 sunstroke.	
Total ...	32

* Two of the dysentery cases had had *anchylostomiasis*, and should properly be put under this head.

The trench latrines are being tried, but I fear for some time to come it will be a most difficult matter to induce the coolies to use them. The wells have been sunk and improved and made *pucca*, and are supplied with pumps, whilst the use of the river and *bhil* water is strictly prohibited, as far as possible. The defiling of the banks of the river is also prevented, but it is a most difficult matter to prevent this, or indeed to prevent coolies easing themselves near their huts or in any convenient place near by. They are not singular in this. I consider that Lalamukh tea garden is a healthy one, if, originally, healthy coolies are imported. The manager (Mr. Ross) is a tea planter of long experience, and one who pays considerable attention to the health and well-being of his coolies. The system of working from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. is adopted only in the cold weather, and is one that the coolies themselves much prefer, and it may safely be left to them to do as they like in the matter. They eat an early meal before leaving for work. It must be remembered that it is barely light before 6-30 a.m. in the cold season. During the rains and hot weather the coolies are rung in in the middle of the day, and have from two to three hours for cooking and eating at that season.

Deputy Commissioner—

This report seems to call for no remarks from me. The manager appears to be fully alive to the situation and to be doing all that can be expected of him. The system noticed by the Civil Surgeon of holding a weekly hospital parade is a most excellent one, and I shall see what I can do to induce other managers to adopt it.

(15) LALACHERRA (*inspected on the 4th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 dysentery.	4 cholera.
1 diarrhœa.	8 diarrhœa.
2 dropsy.	2 dysentery.
	1 dropsy.
	2 fever.
	2 bronchitis.
	1 jaundice.
4	20

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 cholera.	2 cholera.
3 dysentery.	5 diarrhœa.
1 diarrhœa.	5 dysentery.
2 dropsy.	1 dropsy.
1 bronchitis.	7 fever.
	1 bronchitis.
	1 other disease.
9	22

This garden has suffered, like most of the other high mortality ones, from the importation of most indifferent depôt coolies, in most of whom seeds of the disease (*anchylostomiasis*) were apparent. Cholera accounts for eight deaths ; bronchitis and other chest complaints for five. I saw the sick on the day of my visit, and many of them were still suffering with and from *beri-beri*, whilst on inspecting the coolies going to work, I detected and pointed out to the manager and native doctor others with the seeds of the disease well marked on them. I have no fault to find with the lines or water-supply ; in this garden, as in so many of the Cachar gardens, it is difficult to induce, or even force, coolies to use none but fairly good water. There are wells and tanks in the lines on this garden for their use, but they will use the Lala stream and Katakhal river. The water, however, in these two streams is not so bad just now or even in the height of the rains. There is a good weekly market, and well supplied. I have suggested to the manager that he should have on one particular day in the week a full and complete muster of all the coolies, and that the medical officer and the native doctor should pass along the lines, detecting and picking out any coolie who shows signs of illness, and so take the disease under treatment at once. This system is carried out at a neighbouring garden (Lalamukh), and has, I believe, worked well. All sick coolies are fed, on the hotel system, twice a day, and receive rice, dal, fish, &c., besides plenty of vegetables. Lines under repair, but well built and drained. *Hát* on garden every week.

Deputy Commissioner—

The weekly hospital parade suggested by the Civil Surgeon is a good move. The garden is unhealthy upon Act labour only ; and as the mean strength during the year was only 133, I do not think it necessary to make any remarks.

(16) LAKHIPUR (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 cholera.*	9 cholera.
1 dysentery.	4 small-pox.
	1 apoplexy.
	3 dysentery.
	3 diarrhœa.
	1 laryngismus stridulus.
	1 fever.
2	22

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies —	Non-Act labourers—
1 dysentery.	1 dysentery.
	1 drowned.
1	2

This garden appears to have been fairly free from influenza. There were some cases, but not to any great extent, nor fatal. Cholera and small-pox and dysentery appeared to have caused the most of the deaths. Some of the dysentery was due to *anchylostomiasis*, though I noticed no very marked cases amongst the coolies. It has hitherto been a fairly healthy garden, drainage and lines good and well situated, and *hát* well supplied. Of the 27 deaths, half were due to cholera and small-pox, whilst one of them—a cholera case—should not be put down to the discredit of the garden, the man having died at Fenchuganj on his way up.

(17) DHUARBAND (*inspected on the 2nd March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

ALL NON-ACT LABOURERS.

First half—	Second half—
37 cholera.	1 diarrhœa.
1 leprosy.	5 dysentery.
3 debility.	4 debility.
1 dysentery.	1 pneumonia.
2 bronchitis.	1 *beri-beri*.
2 fever.	4 infantile.
4 infantile.	1 convulsions.
1 pneumonia.	1 fever.
51	18

The mortality during the first half of 1891 was mainly due to cholera (37 cases in all), and was reported. During the second half, of the 18 deaths I find that only one had been entered as *beri-beri*, whereas of the remaining 17, 10 at least are due to this cause, but had been entered under the usual symptomatic diagnosis of the native doctor in charge, as being due to dysentery, diarrhœa, debility, whereas they should have been entered as due to *anchylostomiasis*. One case of pneumonia, four infantile disease, one fever, and one convulsions made up the eighteen deaths. Owing to the excessive mortality of the first half of the year, coolies (all depôt ones) had to be imported to fill up vacancies ; and, as usual, these coolies were all more or less diseased, principally suffering from *beri-beri*. I saw a batch just arrived on the day of my visit, and showed the manager (Mr. Peter) that most of the coolies were suffering from the disease. The lines are well attended to and clean, and drainage good. Wells are provided ; and, so far as possible, the coolies are expected to take this water for drinking and no other purposes. But, as usual, they will use the river—a small stream running through or near their lines. *Hát* held on the garden weekly, and well provided with everything.

Deputy Commissioner—

The high mortality this year is principally due to the epidemic of cholera in the first half of the year, but it is to be feared that the new importations of bad coolies may bring this garden on the black list again.

* Should not have been entered ; he died at Fenchuganj on the way up.

(18) NOARBAND (*inspected on the 2nd March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 cholera.	20 cholera.
	5 dysentery.
	1 syphilis.
	1 infantile.
1	27

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
	1 cholera.
None.	2 dropsy.
	3

Of the total number of deaths above given (*viz.*, 31), 22, or two-thirds, were from cholera, the outbreak being similar to that on the Dhuarband tea garden and occurring about the same time ; otherwise the garden is a healthy one, and has hitherto been so. There is close and frequent communication between the two gardens, and, no doubt, the Noarband coolies caught the infection from Dhuarband. *Beri-beri* accounts for the two deaths from dropsy, and, no doubt, for one or two of the deaths from dysentery. The garden is also on the high road to Lushai-land. The lines are well placed, and high ; drainage, natural and sufficient ; water (wells and streams) good ; *hát* weekly, well supplied.

Deputy Commissioner—

I have no remarks. The high mortality here was, as shown, entirely due to cholera in the first half of the year.

(19) DUDPATLI TILA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
	3 diarrhœa.
	1 dysentery.
	3 asthma.
	6 fever.
None.	17 small-pox.
	14 cholera.
	1 child-bed.
	5 croup.
	50

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
	3 small-pox.
	1 bronchitis.
	12 fever.
	13 dysentery.
None.	2 drowned.
	1 cholera.
	2 debility.
	1 abortion.
	1 dropsy.
	1 diarrhœa.
	37

A very severe outbreak of small-pox, which was traced to some *ganaks*, who had got into the lines without the knowledge of the manager and commenced inoculating the coolies, started the disease, from which cause it rapidly spread, affecting men, women, and children. Twenty deaths are due to this cause alone. It is to be hoped that inoculation will soon cease to exist in Cachar. 15 deaths are due to cholera. Of 18 deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa, many succumbed after small-pox when in a weakly state of health. There have been a few cases of *anchylostomiasis*. I have still in the dispensary a woman suffering from this disease. Several of the

deaths attributed to dysentery and to debility and dropsy were from this disease. Amongst the infants and children five deaths occurred from croup, probably infection. This garden had no Act coolies, except two in the beginning of the year. It has hitherto been a healthy garden, and would not have been abnormally unhealthy but for the small-pox and cholera. The lines are good and well drained, and since these diseases have ceased they have been cleaned and disinfected. The latter was also done during the outbreak. Drains well attended to. *Hát* on the garden, and, besides, the estate is just opposite to Silchar.

Deputy Commissioner—

I have no remarks to make beyond those already recorded in the Civil Surgeon's report on Bara Dudpatli. The high mortality here also was purely accidental.

(20) BANDHU (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
None.	4 fever. 1 diarrhœa. — 5 —

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
None.	3 fever. 4 dropsy. 2 dysentery. 2 diarrhœa. 1 bronchitis. 1 pneumonia. — 13 —

There were no deaths amongst the Act coolies at all last year, and the high proportion of those amongst the free labourers is based on a small average number of coolies. Influenza was here prevalent, and to the effects of that disease many of the deaths are due. *Anchylostomiasis* does not appear to have been prevalent, due probably to the reason that this is a new garden, and the Superintendent (Mr. Scott Elliot) had only carefully selected coolies sent to the garden.

(21) DUDPATLI BARA AND CHALTAKANDI (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 cholera. 3 dysentery. — 4 —	6 fever. 9 dysentery. 40 small-pox. 10 cholera. 1 dropsy. 1 debility. 1 bite from jackals. 3 tetanus. 1 bronchitis. 3 diarrhœa. — 75 —

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
2 dropsy. 3 dysentery. 2 debility. — 7 —	12 small-pox. 6 dysentery. 9 fever. 2 old age. 2 dropsy. 1 fever. 1 leprosy. 1 bronchitis 1 dropsy. 1 debility. — 36 —

This garden, like Dudpatli Tila, was affected about the same time by an outbreak of small-pox and cholera. Fifty-two deaths occurred from the former and eleven from the latter disease. *Anchylostomiasis* also has to do with some of the dysentery, dropsy, and debility cases. I have often cases of this disease sent to me for treatment in the dispensary. The small-pox was undoubtedly brought into the garden by *ganaks*, who started inoculation without the leave or knowledge of the manager. The lines (there are two sets) are well built and attended to. Drainage good. Water-supply—wells and tanks. *Hát* well supplied on the garden. Disinfection and destruction of the huts affected by small-pox, cholera, &c., was undertaken during and since the epidemic.

Deputy Commissioner—

The high mortality here is, as noted by the Civil Surgeon, entirely due to small-pox and cholera, nearly half the total number of deaths being due to the former disease alone. I have elsewhere remarked on the futility of prohibiting inoculation in the Silchar station limits, while *ganaks* are permitted to work their will unrestrained outside these limits. I only trust that with a clear case like the present before him, the Chief Commissioner will see his way to extending the prohibition of this practice to the whole district.

(22) DAYAPUR AND ATAICHERRA (*inspected on the 21st February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
1 pneumonia.	1 diarrhœa.
1 fever.	1 cholera.
1 cholera.	1 dropsy.
	3 dysentery.
	1 accidental.
	1 pneumonia.
3	8

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
11 dysentery.	2 dysentery.
15 diarrhœa.	1 diarrhœa.
1 leprosy.	1 fever.
1 dropsy.	1 pneumonia.
1 pneumonia.	2 dropsy.
1 fever.	1 apoplexy.
30	8

The mortality here has been due to an epidemic of influenza, from the after effects of which all of the deaths under pneumonia (four in all) are due. The manager informs me that he had for days a large number of coolies on the sick list from this disease (influenza). *Beri-beri* (*anchylostomiasis*) was also very much amongst the coolies, mostly so in the new batches that were imported. Dr. Vacy Lyle, the medical officer of the garden, states that almost all the diarrhœa, dysentery, and dropsy fatal cases are due to this disease. The manager had to accept a large number of new coolies forced on him against his will by the agents of the garden. They (the coolies) were all depôt coolies—weakly and diseased, and amongst them *anchylostomiasis* was greatly prevalent. The lines are well drained and kept clean. Water-supply good and ample. Usual garden market held once a week, well supplied with food stuffs and vegetables.

(23) ABONGCHERRA (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
3 cholera.	2 cholera.
1 heart disease.	1 dysentery.
1 fever.	
5	3

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
6 dysentery.	4 cholera.
1 diarrhœa.	3 fever.
1 cholera.	1 dysentery.
2 fever.	1 dropsy.
1 debility.	1 bronchitis.
11	10

I have advised the manager to have the immediate neighbourhood of the lines and round the huts dug up and well hoed, and to establish a central hospital immediately under the supervision of the medical officer. The water-supply in the garden is good, and I found no fault with it if the coolies can be induced to use none but good water. The local *hát* is well supplied with all necessary food-supplies.

(24) SCOTTPUR (*inspected on the 22nd February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
6 dysentery.	3 diarrhœa.
1 diarrhœa.	3 fever.
2 fever.	2 dropsy.
1 dropsy.	
1 dyspepsia.	
1 pneumonia.	
12	8

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
5 diarrhœa.	4 diarrhœa.
4 fever.	5 fever.
10 dropsy.	1 dropsy.
8 dysentery.	3 dysentery.
	1 bronchitis.
	1 cholera.
27	15

The mortality here is entirely due to *beri-beri* (*anchylostomiasis*), and occurred mostly in a very bad batch of coolies imported in 1891. All the dropsy (14 cases) are due to this cause, and most of the dysentery and diarrhœa cases. I saw the sick on the day of inspection at the garden hospital, and most of them were suffering from the above disease. Very few of the old coolies are ill or even on the sick list. Influenza was also prevalent, but Dr. Dundee, the medical officer, states that to the former disease (*anchylostomiasis*) the excessive death rate is due. The lines themselves should be healthy, as they are placed high on *tilas* and are naturally well drained. Water-supply, mostly from wells, good. A good market, well supplied, is also held on the garden once a week.

Deputy Commissioner—

The state of things revealed in this report can only be prevented at recruiting centres. If the coolies once come to Cachar, no amount of care will prevent their dying until regular medical examination of all coolies at all recruiting centres, more especially those in the North-Western Provinces, is insisted upon and the bad coolies weeded out. We shall always have gardens like this unhealthy from no fault of their own. Agents apparently will not understand this, and the only thing to be done is to force it upon them.

(25) BADARPUR (*inspected on the 13th February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

FIRST HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
3 cholera.	15 cholera.
	1 small-pox.
	1 dysentery.
	1 diarrhœa.
	6 fever.
	1 burns.
3	25

SECOND HALF.

Act coolies—	Non-Act labourers—
None.	7 dysentery.
	1 diarrhœa.
	3 dropsy.
	1 convulsions.
	1 phthisis.
	4 fever.
	17

This garden, except for cholera, would have been healthy this past year. There were upwards of eighteen cases of this disease. I may also point out that amongst the Act coolies, except for cholera, there would have been no deaths. Fifteen cases of cholera were fatal and *anchylostomiasis* accounts for some six of the deaths amongst free labourers, although the deaths were attributed to dysentery and dropsy. This garden's coolie lines are unfortunately placed for any epidemic that may occur, being close to the main road from Sylhet to Cachar, and the cholera was undoubtedly brought into the lines by the passing troops and coolies for the Lushai and Manipur expeditions. The manager (Mr. Lyon Clark) is however, to alleviate this, moving a great number of the huts across the river to a site on an abandoned *tila* garden. I may also mention that many cases of influenza were amongst the coolies, and this accounts for some of the deaths, but unfortunately no list has been kept, showing who were affected by this disease.

Deputy Commissioner—

The high mortality on this garden is, as noted by the Civil Surgeon, purely accidental, and calls for no remarks.

SYLHET.

(1) GHILLACHERRA (*inspected on the 13th July 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

1. The garden was very unhealthy during the last year. There were 41 deaths,—20 among the Act and 21 among the non-Act coolies and dependents. A large number of these deaths (12) among the Act coolies were due to dropsy (*anchylostomiasis*), and occurred chiefly among the newly imported coolies. Most of them came into the garden with the disease in its incipient stage. There were 13 deaths among the children, mostly from croup, bronchitis, pneumonia, small-pox, and bowel complaints.

2. The following sanitary defects were noticed during the present inspection :

(*a*) The lines are kept very dirty. They are overcrowded. Some of the huts should be pulled down to allow a free flow of air into them. The drainage is defective.
(*b*) There are five (semi-*pucca*) wells ; of these two dry up every dry season. These should be deepened. All the wells should have force pumps and filtering tanks attached to them.
(*c*) All newly arrived Act-I coolies should be fed by the manager for four months. A feeding place should be erected for them close to the hospital.
(*d*) There must be a proper hospital well furnished with medicines and appliances.
(*e*) A small incinerator should be purchased from Messrs. T. E. Thomson and Co., Calcutta, for burning the excreta of patients suffering from *anchylostomiasis*.
(*f*) Children when seedy should be fed from the hospital. The mother should get leave and subsistence allowance.

Deputy Commissioner—

The water-supply and sanitation of this garden seem to be defective. No explanation appears to be forthcoming of the large number of deaths among non-Act coolies, the majority of whom were probably old residents on the garden, and not newly imported.

(2) LAKHAICHERRA (*inspected on the 14th July 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

Death rate among the Act-I coolies is high, the percentage of deaths to strength being 9. The garden has been unhealthy since 1890 owing to heavy deaths among the Act-I coolies. The causes of unhealthiness were—

(*a*) Bad lines.
(*b*) Bad class of new coolies ; many of them came up suffering from *anchylostomiasis*.
(*c*) Imperfect and insufficient hospital arrangements.
(*d*) Defective water-supply.

The following improvements have been made since last inspection (19th June 1891) :

(*a*) The old lines are being gradually given up and new lines are being built on *tilas*.
(*b*) A proper hospital has been built, and it is furnished with all necessary appliances.
(*c*) Seven semi-*pucca* wells have been constructed.

Recommendations.

1. The water-supply must be further improved. Three *pucca* wells fitted with force pumps and filtering tanks should be constructed next cold weather. The present wells are not protected properly, and the water is turbid, and contains a large quantity of suspended matter.
2. The old lines should be entirely given up as quickly as possible.
3. The 'Hotel system' for feeding newly imported Act-I coolies should be started without delay.

Deputy Commissioner—

New coolies seem to suffer much more than old hands.

(3) KAJURICHERRA (*inspected on the 15th July 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This garden has been unhealthy since 1889 owing to high death rate among the Act-I coolies. During my inspection the percentage of deaths to strength among the Act-I coolies was 9·11, the largest number of deaths being due to anæmia, dropsy, dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera. The following sanitary improvements should be made in the garden :

(*a*) *Lines.*—They are overcrowded and damp. A few huts here and there should be pulled down to allow free ventilation in the lines, and some of the trees should be cut down, as they also obstruct ventilation and keep the place damp. The present drains should be deepened, and should have a proper outfall.

(*b*) *Water-supply.*—The semi-*pucca* wells should be gradually given up and replaced by *pucca* deep wells fitted with force pumps and filtering tanks.

(*c*) The 'hotel system' of feeding newly imported Act-I coolies should be carried on in this garden as soon as possible.

(*d*) The number of cases of *anchylostomiasis* treated in this garden since the beginning of the year is 80. There are at present ten cases of the disease under treatment. I would recommend that an incinerator (from Messrs. T. E. Thomson and Co., Calcutta) should be purchased, and the stools of these patients burnt up in it.

Deputy Commissioner—

It will be noticed that the death rate was high only among Act coolies, while non-Act coolies seemed to enjoy good health. This seems to show that the climate of the garden is only hurtful to new arrivals. It would be a good thing if a *jardin d'acclimatation* for new coolies could be maintained.

(4) BARMACHERRA (*inspected on the 14th July 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The garden has been unhealthy for Act coolies. There have been 22 deaths since last inspection, the percentage of deaths to strength being 9·52. The sanitary condition and the general health of the Act coolies during my inspection were not satisfactory.

The lines—Are on the flat. The huts generally have low plinths, and are damp, owing partly to the presence of a large number of trees in the lines. The drainage also requires improvement.

Water-supply.—Unsatisfactory ; the present wells should be gradually given up, and three deep *pucca* wells fitted with force pumps and filtering tanks should be constructed next cold weather.

Food-supply and hour of feeding.—The food stuffs purchased by the coolies from the *hát* are of fair quality. But I think that a large number of new coolies do not buy enough food to keep up proper health and strength. I may also state that the time allowed them for cooking their midday meal in this wet weather is not sufficient. Many have to go a long distance to collect firewood, and the wood, being very often dripping wet, takes a long time to burn properly, so the coolies have often to resume work before the food is quite ready.

Hotel system.—I strongly recommend that the 'hotel system' of feeding coolies should be introduced into this garden. All new coolies should be fed by the manager for four months after their arrival in the garden.

Hospital.—The new hospital is satisfactory. The supply of medicines is ample. The cases of *anchylostomiasis* are carefully selected and treated in the hospital.

(5) MIRZAPUR (*inspected on the 16th July 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The garden was unhealthy last year, and the deaths were mostly due to cholera, bowel complaints and dropsy. During the first half of the current year, the mortality among the Act coolies is 2·3, per cent., and among the non-Act coolies 3·6 per cent. The deaths occurred chiefly from cholera, dropsy, and lung complaints.

The lines.—All the three sets of lines are kept dirty. The huts have no plinths. The lines in the middle set (*b*) have been built only recently on new clearances. The lines in the south set (on the flat) are the unhealthiest of all. Most of the deaths occurred in the last two sets, and these should be gradually given up.

Water-supply.—The main source of supply is from the Kullacherra river, where the coolies also bathe. The *kutcha* wells dry up in the cold weather, and are situated in the lines. Three *pucca* wells should be sunk next cold weather.

General health of the coolies.—Not satisfactory. There are many cases of anæmia and *anchylostomiasis* in the garden. The doctor Babu not being a qualified man, does not know how to treat these cases properly. There is no proper hospital, and the supply of medicines and medical comforts is inadequate. A proper hospital, a qualified native doctor, and a good supply of medicines and medical comforts are urgently required.

Labour force and wages.—The labour force is inadequate, and the wages are generally low.

Deputy Commissioner—

This appears to be a very badly managed garden. The coolies are badly housed, have bad water to drink, and no proper medical attention.

(6) LALCHAND (*inspected on the 23rd May 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The garden was unhealthy in 1891. There were 112 deaths, of which 66 occurred among the newly arrived coolies and dependents from the North-Western Provinces, and 46 among the jungly and Bengali coolies and dependents from Ranchi, Bankura, and Burdwan. Of the total number of deaths, 54 occurred among the children. The causes of deaths were fever, debility, and bowel complaints. The garden has a visiting European medical man and a qualified resident native doctor, so the sick coolies had proper medical treatment, and Rs. 521-8-6 were expended during the year on medical comforts. This year (1892) there have been 34 deaths up to date of inspection,—26 amongst adults and 6 amongst children, mostly from cholera and bowel complaints. The large number of deaths amongst children was largely due to want of proper nourishment, as the mothers were in many cases too ill to look after their children. During my inspection I noticed the following sanitary defects, which must be removed as soon as possible:

(*a*) The lines were very damp; too many large trees were allowed to grow about the place. These must be cut down.
(*b*) The *kutcha* wells must be given up and six *pucca* deep wells constructed without any delay. The water-supply of the garden is at present bad.
(*c*) A proper hospital should be built for treating serious cases.

2. *Anchylostomiasis.*—I noticed about 7 anæmic coolies among the 400 people that were mustered. They were all cases of *beri-beri*. They should be taken in hand in time and properly treated by *thymol*. In the sick register I found three cases of *anchylostomiasis* treated up to date, and they all recovered under *thymol* treatment. There was no case of *kála-azár* in the garden.

Deputy Commissioner—

Dr. Banerji's report is a damaging one. The main defect of the garden appears to be want of good drinking water. The mortality up to date this year is at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The garden seems to be peculiarly fatal to newly-arrived coolies, and it seems advisable to prohibit importation of new coolies into it until it becomes healthier.

(7) CHANDKHIRA (*inspected on the 13th June 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The garden has been unhealthy since last inspection, the death rate being 11·2 per cent. The causes of unhealthiness are—

(*a*) Bad class of North-Western Provinces coolies imported during the past two years.
(*b*) Bad water-supply. The *kutcha* wells must be given up, and *pucca* wells should be sunk with as little delay as possible. The new tank should be fenced in, and its water should be filtered before being used by the coolies. Its water has at present the colour and consistence of pea soup.
(*c*) There was no hospital before; one has been built just now. The native doctor is worthless, and has no qualifications of any kind. He should be replaced by a properly qualified native doctor. There is very little medicine in store in the garden. There should be a good supply this year.
(*d*) The lines have been improved recently. The old lines are being gradually given up. But the new huts have no plinths; there should be 2 feet plinths for each hut.
(*e*) The largest number of deaths have been due to dysentery and dropsy, and chiefly among the newly imported North-Western Provinces coolies. I believe many of these were cases of *anchylostomiasis*, and if they had been diagnosed in time, many lives could have been saved.
(*f*) I paraded all the coolies. I noticed only four cases of *anchylostomiasis* among them. I made them over to the doctor Babu for proper treatment by *thymol*.
(*g*) I believe that a feeding place for all new coolies is urgently required in this garden. All new coolies should be fed by the manager for at least six months.

Deputy Commissioner—

The Civil Surgeon's report shows that the garden is unfit for human habitation, and that the manager has neglected the commonest sanitary precautions. The coolies are unfortunately not under the Act.

(8) SONAKHIRA (*inspected on the 13th June 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The garden is fairly healthy at present, the death rate being below 7 per cent. I paraded all the coolies. Many of the new coolies appeared weak and anæmic. There were eight cases of *anchylostomiasis* among them. They arrived in the garden very recently. The manager says he has just started feeding all the new coolies. I consider this a very satisfactory arrangement.

2. The water-supply of the garden must be improved; *kutcha* wells must be given up, and *pucca* wells built in their place.

3. Line sweeper should be kept to keep the lines clean. The huts should have high plinths.

4. There must be a proper hospital and a qualified resident doctor Babu in the garden.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden is now healthy in spite of the unfavourable sanitary conditions.

(9) LALKHIRA (*inspected on the 29th June 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

I attribute a good deal of the ill-health of the coolies in this garden to—

First.—*Kutcha* wells containing bad water.
Second.—Barrack fashion lines not on plinths.
Third.—Bad drainage of the lines.
Fourth.—Total incompetence of the doctor Babu.
Fifth.—New coolies living on new clearances without special sanitary arrangements.

I would recommend—

First.—*Pucca* wells and pumps.
Second.—18 feet × 12 feet detached lines on raised 2-feet plinths built in lines with 8 feet spaces between each house and 14 feet roads between each lines, having drains at back and front of lines.
Third.—A new doctor Babu with a diploma or a certificate from the Civil Surgeon.
Fourth.—No new coolies should live in huts built on new clearances, without special sanitary arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden seems to be unsuitable for the residence of coolies. There is, however, only one Act coolie on it.

KÁMRÚP.

(1) AMCHONG (*inspected on the 11th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This cannot be called an unhealthy garden. It was, I believe, never on the unhealthy list until this year. The mortality of Act coolies was high, but it was partly because bad coolies were sent up, and partly because influenza was prevalent. There seems to be no *kála-azár* here, and this alone should keep it on the healthy list. No child has died on the garden for over a year, and the last inspection report seems to disregard infants, as none are shown on the garden as dependents.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was brought on the unhealthy list by 12 deaths, giving a percentage of 9·7 among Act coolies. Of these deaths, four were from influenza, two from *kála-azár*, one from childbirth. There is no influenza on the garden now; and after mustering the coolies the Civil Surgeon reports that there is no *kála-azár*. The garden is healthy, and no action appears necessary.

(2) RANI (*inspected on the 15th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

It is impossible to find out the cause of the supposed high mortality last year. Nine deaths are said to have occurred, eight from *kála-azár* and one from fever. I know of no distinguishing mark between *kála-azár* and malarial fever. It is like this, as far as I can make out—the old man must die, but the young man may. When a man's death is expected, it is called '*kála-azár*', when unexpected 'fever'. The next point is what measures can be taken to prevent further mortality. These resolve themselves into two classes,—those the manager can be compelled to take, and those he might be induced to take of his own free will. If he is not beyond the reach of the Act, he soon will be, because if pressure is put on him, he will break up his lines and work entirely with *busti-wallahs*, or almost entirely. I believe he is beyond the reach of the Act.

Deputy Commissioner—

Though no special measures appear to have been taken, the health of the garden has improved. The vital statistical returns for the current year show only two deaths up to the end of April; and if this improvement is continued, the garden will not be on the unhealthy list for the current year.

(3) CHUNSALI (*inspected on the 14th March 1892.*)

Civil Surgeon—

The garden has been inspected by the Sanitary Commissioner, by Dr. Giles, and by Dr. Campbell within a comparatively short period, and any suggestions they made are being acted on by the manager. It is quite clear that the mortality is due to some cause not confined to this garden, but common to nearly the entire district, recently aggravated here by an epidemic of influenza. A latrine for the coolies seems to be the last hope we have of lowering the mortality from anæmia, and this hope rests upon a doctrine by no means yet established, that the anæmia of coolies is parasitic in its causation. Contrary to what has been my experience on other gardens, I have found that here so called jungly coolies, who eat everything, seem to suffer most. Although the manager and his assistant do not complain, I feel sure the garden, like Gauháti itself, is very malarious.

Deputy Commissioner—

The manager has been asked to have the latrines set at work without further delay. He now writes to me that some of the latrines have been completed, and the others will be finished in a few days. If the establishment of latrines does not succeed in reducing the mortality, it will be necessary to assemble a committee on this garden. I propose to watch the vital statistical returns for the first half of the year.

(4) CHANDRAPUR (*inspected on the 3rd April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The manager attributes the very high mortality on this garden to *kála-azár* and the bad management of a planter who held charge temporarily, and neglected his duties. *Kála-azár* has been so fatal that the manager has ceased to import new coolies, and can scarcely work his garden in consequence. The place is malarious, and the villagers round about seem to suffer as well as the coolies on the garden. *Kála-azár* has been known here only for two years. Labour is a difficulty; 352 acres are under tea, and only that the manager gets free labour he could not work the garden. Half the work is done by outsiders, the manager's own ryots working as garden coolies. The latter die from *kála-azár*, and it appears that the garden mortality has been swollen by persons coming for treatment and dying on the garden (old coolies who had taken to cultivation on their own account). The manager does not believe in Dr. Giles' worm, yet he has gone in for latrines and filters for his coolies. He thinks that bad food has had much to say to the sickness, and says that since he has taken the bázár into his own hands, there is a great improvement in the health of the coolies. The manager has not built his lines on the new site, because some coolies on the site selected suffered more than the coolies on the banks of the Kullung. I confess I can see nothing but a very malarious garden, and consequently can make no suggestions. The manager is also the owner of the garden, and he is doing all he can to protect his labour force.

Deputy Commissioner—

The Civil Surgeon's report on this garden comes to this, that the manager has now provided a good and abundant water-supply and good food-supply, that the lines are fairly well drained and clean, and that latrines have been established. These sanitary improvements should do much to diminish the death rate from the three main causes on this garden,—cholera, dysentery, and *kála-azár*. The health of the garden has improved, and before taking further action, I think it desirable to watch for some further period the result of the measures taken.

(5) BORDWAR (*inspected on the 15th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

There seems to be a great change for the better on this garden. The mortality for the past four months has been low enough. One set of lines where *kála-azár* was prevalent was moved to a site approved of by Mr. Teunon, and latrines have been made. The water-supply is derived mostly from the river. I agree with Dr. Campbell that the river water is safer than the well-water. It was a mistake to recommend a Norton's tube here. If wells are to be made here, they must be either ring or *pucca* wells. The manager says that until *kála-azár* is far advanced, it in no respect differs from ordinary fever, and that no good has come of the periodical inspections recommended at last inspection. In all respects but water-supply the arrangements are good. There is a good water-supply to be had from the river, but it is muddy and requires filtration. If, as some people seem to think, *kála-azár* is due to a parasite incapable of breeding within the body but with ova widely scattered, the river water is the best supply, as it runs from the hills. I am quite satisfied there is a large malarial element here that will remain in spite of all sanitary improvement. Nagpuris seem to have suffered most.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was twice inspected in 1891,—once by the Civil Surgeon in July, and once by me in December. The suggestions made by the Civil Surgeon in July—(1) to clear the jungle near the lines, (2) to replace a few houses, (3) to close a condemned well and adopt Norton's tubes or other pump arrangements—had been carried out by December, though unfortunately the Norton's tubes did not prove successful. The present inspection report shows that the suggestions made in December—(1) removal of one set of lines in which *kála-azár* was most prevalent to a new and suitable site, (2) latrines, (3) periodical musters of all coolies for native doctor's inspection—have been carried out. There was a considerable decrease in the mortality in the second half-year of 1891 compared with the first. The present report shows a still greater improvement since December. It is not unreasonable to conclude that this improvement must be due in part to the various sanitary improvements effected. In face of this and of the fact that at the inspection in December on mustering the coolies, 12 coolies requiring immediate treatment for *kála-azár* were found amongst those going to work for the day, I cannot agree in thinking that "no good has come of the periodical inspections recommended," and the manager will be asked not to discontinue them. Dr. Macnamara has, I think, misunderstood Dr. Campbell's opinion *re* wells *versus* river. Dr. Campbell writes that the river water was probably better than the water in one well "in the middle of the lines, and certain to suffer from contamination, as the surface drainage must run into it." This is the well that has since been closed. As the Norton's tubes have proved a failure, the adoption of ring or *pucca* wells, as now recommended, with some other form of pumping arrangements and otherwise properly protected, will be suggested. No other action appears to be now necessary.

(6) MANDAKATA (*inspected on the 19th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This garden has recently changed hands. There is at present little or no sickness but cholera, and the mortality but for the cholera would be low indeed. The Deputy Commissioner visited and inspected the garden on the 8th December, but I think it desirable that my report should cover a long period, and Dr. Dobson's report has been given me. I saw one case of cholera under treatment at the epidemic shed, which is near the Chandra lines. I believe this is the second outbreak that has taken place. Both had their origin among new arrivals ; and this being so, no blame can be thrown on the garden management. Mr. Haviland accompanied me on my inspection, and it is clear that he is doing what can be done to prevent the cholera from spreading. The cholera outbreak, which occurred before the present one, appeared at Mandakata. I have looked into the death returns for the past year. There has been a case of murder, 3 deaths of children at birth or soon after it, 10 cases of cholera, and 14 deaths from fever and *kála-azár*. One of the latter was over sixty years old, and his death is shown in part as 'old age'. There were therefore 13 deaths only from causes connected with the place, and they are the real measure of its unhealthiness, giving a rate of about 4·5. The well at Mandakata is not bad, being a ring well. I think if it were covered in and a pump put into it, it would be a good arrangement. Water at Bornigiri is a difficulty, as rock is struck a couple of feet down in the site chosen. Here in the rains there is a good stream, now almost dry. The only way to stop the cholera is to keep it out by detaining all new arrivals at or outside the Chandra lines. Gardens unhealthy on account of cholera, as this is, would do well to get their coolies up in the height of the cold season, and so avoid crowding the steamers at this unhealthy season. There seems to be no *kála-azár* on this garden now.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was on the unhealthy list for 1891, having 29 deaths, giving a ratio of 12·3. Of these, 9 were from cholera, 2 from *kála-azár*, and 12 from fever. The present report by the Civil Surgeon shows a great improvement in the health of this garden since Dr. Dobson's visit in July. Apart from the outbreak of cholera among newly imported coolies immediately after arrival, there has been little sickness on the garden since the beginning of the year. The Civil Surgeon also reports that there appears to be no *kála-azár* on the garden, but unfortunately he did not, I understand, muster the coolies. I have asked him to do this without fail at all special inspections of unhealthy gardens hereafter. Looking to the improvement in the health of this garden, beyond requesting the manager to carry out the suggestions of the Civil Surgeon regarding the well at Mandakata and to improve the drainage of the lines (this was suggested at my inspection in December), I do not think further action necessary.

DARRANG.

(1) NAMGAON (*inspected on the 4th November 1891 and 27th January 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

Sanitary arrangements as regards water-supply and state of the lines are good. In 1891 there were 33 deaths (Act 25 and non-Act 8), of which 10 were from *beri-beri*, 9 from dysentery, 3 from fever, and 11 from other diseases. Coolies mustered, and found fairly healthy. From January to December 1891 new coolies imported to the garden were Act 108, non-Act 65, of whom 7 died during the year (4 Act, 3 non-Act). Although the mortality is higher than 7 per cent., I could not find any marked defects calling for remarks. Here, as well as in most of the gardens, *beri-beri* and its complications play an important part in raising the mortality.

Deaths in			Act.	Non-Act.	Total.
1887	...	...	28	2	30
1888	...	...	15	1	16
1889	...	...	9	10	19
1890	...	...	16	10	26
1891	...	...	25	8	33

Deputy Commissioner—

I have little to add to what Dr. Borah has said. The garden is unhealthy alone so far as Act coolies are concerned, and is apparently suffering, as most gardens which import much are suffering, from a supply of poor coolies.

(2) NAHORANI (*inspected on the 3rd November 1891 and 27th January 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

As this is a special inspection on account of its being on the black list, I note here the causes of mortality and as to sanitation. The regular inspection was done a month and a half ago. The total deaths during the year 1891 were 55 (among the Act 41 and non-Act 14). The causes of deaths were *beri-beri* and its complications (dysentery, diarrhœa, and dropsy) 34, cholera 5, and other diseases contributed the rest. On mustering the coolies I found a good number of anæmic coolies, who generally swell up the mortality if not detected and treated at the outset. The

lines are built on a good site with good drainage and *pucca* wells with pump and cisterns. The water by rough test was found of good quality. The high mortality, taking into consideration the sanitary arrangements, was due, I am inclined to think, to some batches of bad type of coolies with anæmia (*beri-beri*) in them. In order to guard against the spreading of *beri-beri*, I recommend that a set of houses, say four to six, be built near the hospital with a latrine (trench or dry earth system) attached. In these houses the *beri-beri* cases, when detected after timely inspection, must be segregated and kept under the immediate supervision of the doctor. By so doing, spreading of the disease is prevented, majority of the cases cured, and mortality minimised. The manager is willing to carry out any suggestion I make to reduce the death rate. I may here note that during the year 1891, 67 new Act and 28 non-Act coolies arrived in the garden, of whom 8 died from various causes.

Deputy Commissioner—

I was not able to visit this garden, but propose to do so shortly. I do not, as at present advised, think it necessary to hold a committee on this garden.

(3) KALAIN (*inspected on the 3rd November 1891 and 27th January 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The total deaths were 18 (Act 13 and non-Act 5), of which 9 were from *beri-beri*, 4 from fever, 2 from dysentery, and the rest from other causes. Here also half of the deaths was due to *beri-beri* and its complications. The percentage among Act coolies is high, due to the strength being small. The coolies were mustered, and I did not find so many anæmic cases (in proportion to strength) as in Nahorani. The deaths among the newly imported coolies in 1891 were 7 out of 99 Act and 35 non-Act coolies. Being a new garden, deaths for the past five years could not be given. The same recommendations are necessary as in the Nahorani tea estate. This is simply a case of bad batches of new coolies suffering on new extensions.

(4) DHEKIAJULI (*inspected on the 29th May 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

I inspected the garden on 29th May 1892. The manager (Mr. Heddle) is absent on leave Mr. Saltonn is looking after the working of the garden during his absence.

No records except the daily attendance register were found. The manager stated that they were burnt during the late fire. I could not understand how one book was saved and not the others, which were also in daily use and kept in the same office.

During the year 1891 there were 22 deaths, of which 15 were Act. Causes of the deaths were mostly dysentery. The ratio of mortality among the Act coolies is 8·05 per cent. The prevailing diseases during my inspection are bowel complaints. No children's death up to date is noted in the register of the sick, in which I noticed 2 deaths (adults) from cholera and dysentery. The figures of last year quoted above are taken from the half-yearly returns. There are two blocks of lines—the old with mud walls (four in number) close to the tea house, and the new, on the north of the Government road, with *ekra* walls. They are fairly clean, but the grass jungle is growing so near to the houses that it is no wonder the lines, &c., are burnt periodically. The drainage system is very defective, in fact, no attempt has been made in this direction. There is a *holla* intervening between the old lines and the tea-house. The water of this *holla*, I have reason to believe, is used for all purposes. There are two wells (*kutcha*) with corrugated iron rings near the tea-house, and another *kutcha* well in the new lines. The water of these wells cannot be good, as there is every facility for surface and subsoil contamination. The new line people use not the well water but the Dhekiajuli stream, which is luckily close by. There is no hospital. The medicines are in the manager's bungalow. There is a qualified doctor Babu since 6th May 1892. Previous to this the sick were evidently treated by the manager and the muharrir, as the latter stated, and as was seen by the entry of the diseases in the sick register. It is no wonder that the mortality will be high. No special arrangement is made to take care of the weakly children, as I have noticed several children in an emaciated state during the mustering of the labour force.

As my recommendations in the previous inspections as well as of the other inspecting officers have not yet been carried out, it is necessary to have a committee on the garden.

Deputy Commissioner—

Dhekiajuli was in the black list for 1888 and 1889. I inspected the garden on the 16th November 1891. It was not unhealthy on both Act and non-Act population, but only on Act coolies. This means bad gangs of new coolies. I have visited the garden several times during the year. I append a copy of the note I added to my inspection report.

No infant deaths shown in the register in 18 months ; manager says that not a single boy or girl has died all that time. Only five births this year—one still born, but not included among the deaths. Deaths due to dysentery and diarrhœa 24, cholera or choleraic diarrhœa 3, pneumonia only 2, anæmia only 1 (though several of the coolies I examined were anæmic) ; 2 deaths attributed to syphilis. A man and a woman committed suicide on the 20th June last. A police enquiry was held, and no particular cause was given in the report. The sub-inspector who enquired told me privately that he attributed these suicides to ill-treatment. I saw no signs of ill-treatment or overwork. I went carefully through several pages of the *hazira* book. Wages are fair, and in some cases exceptionally good. But the garden until lately has not been paying its way, and the labour supply is still inadequate, and would be grossly inadequate but that the manager can

get Kacharis. The coolies earned 5,844 full *haziras* out of a possible total of 6,973 in January and 5,922 out of a possible 7,549 in September, which happened to be a bad month for leaf on this garden. The number of days worked credited in the *hazira* book is unusually small, nor are there very many fractions. Area under tea 220 acres and outturn 1,070 maunds, less than one working coolie to the acre ; but Kacharis eke out the labour force. The coolies were mustered. Married women not put under contract without their husbands. Manager says he would do it if he had a coolie *basti* alongside. Women would work on garden, men in village. No unmarried women under contract. No coolies on new clearance. Manager does not complain of food-supply.

There is a practice here of giving weakly men women's *hazira*, that is, their wage is Rs. 4 a month and not Rs. 5. I believe this is a common practice. It is of course illegal, but the woman's task is lighter than a man's, and a weakly man really earns more under this system. This is one of the many points in which it is almost impossible for an inspector to regulate tasks in accordance with the Act. Here, as in the Darrang gardens, nothing under a half *hazira* is credited. I watched the day's leaf being weighed (by the manager in person). Women who brought something under two seers were credited with two seers ; but of course I was looking on. The garden is a very small one, and I am loth to order expensive changes which will trench on the wages fund. For instance, in the matter of the hospital, some sort of hospital must be supplied, but the manager is not so much to blame as the manager of Borjuli for instance, a huge estate with 2,000 coolies and yielding handsome profits.

* * * *

A committee will be held on the garden as soon as the manager returns. I had determined on this before Dr. Borah's visit. The garden is a private garden, with a poor labour force. It has been frequently visited. I have been there several times myself during the year.

(5) Rowta (*inspected on the 8th December 1891*).

Civil Surgeon—

It was inspected by the Deputy Commissioner on the 24th November 1891. The details of the causes of deaths are as follows :

19 cholera.		3 dropsy.
5 dysentery.		1 anæmia.
	7 other causes.	

The total labour force being 281, the percentage of mortality rose to 12·55. This high mortality was due to the outbreak of cholera. The old lines will be abandoned as soon as the new lines are completed and *pucca* wells sunk. A better hospital may be in or near the new lines under the charge of a duly qualified man.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was inspected by me on the 24th November and by the Civil Surgeon on the 8th December 1891. I visited this garden four or five times in the course of the year, once in the company of the Commissioner, Mr. Wace. Of the 35 deaths, 19 were due to cholera. This garden has been unlucky in getting very bad batches of coolies from the agents. I append a copy of a letter which I wrote to the manager,—a letter which has also formed the subject of a special report to Government.

Copy of Deputy Commissioner's letter to the Manager.

In inspecting your garden to-day I found that a gang of 62 coolies, who were sent to you by your agent, has undergone the following startling experiences :—13 died, 26 ran away (with the probable result that many of them died of starvation in the jungle). Of 6 I cancelled the agreements to-day on account of their physical unfitness to labour. One was in a moribund state, and I thought it useless to cancel the poor wretch's agreement. This leaves you with a balance, out of the whole batch, of 16. Even these 16 are a poor lot, and it was not without considerable hesitation that I refrained from cancelling their agreements also. I cannot lay the dreadful result to your charge. Rowta has been hitherto a healthy garden, and I find that you have taken steps to give food and subsistence allowance to those of the gang who had been unable to earn wages. But it is clear that the gang has proved a very poor investment for the estate. It would obviously have been better had they not been imported at all. It is clear that coolies of a feeble and ill-nourished type should not be sent to a garden like yours, and I write to warn you that if your agents send you any more such decrepit specimens of humanity, I must summon a committee and take steps to prevent any new Act coolies being sent to your garden at all. I notice that in these people's agreements they are all described as Sonthalis. They are nothing of the kind. They are low caste Hindus from the North-Western Provinces and the western districts of Behar. You did rightly if you asked your agents to supply you with good Sonthalis and Orias for a garden in which considerable extensions (looking to the total labour force at your disposal) are being made. But I do not know how to fitly describe the conduct of the contractors who foisted off these 62 wretched North-Westers on Messrs. King & Co. as Sonthali coolies. I have no doubt that the contractors' charges were drawn up on the scale usually charged for good Sonthalis. I would beg you and your agents (to whom I am sending a copy of this letter) to consider whether legal steps cannot be taken to punish what seems *primâ facie* to approach perilously near the borders of fraud. It is only necessary to look at these coolies—to hear them speak—to be assured that their homes lie very far indeed from Dumka, whence, according to their contracts, they should have come. When such practices result, as they must often result, in such ghastly losses as have occurred in this gang, the matter becomes a serious one

for you and for your employer. It brings a hitherto healthy garden on to my black list ; it exposes you to the probability of having your supply of labour entirely stopped by a committee. This unfortunate gang must already have cost the concern an enormous sum of money, which can never be recouped. It is futile for the contractors to say that the gang contained the best coolies then available. Why were they falsely described as Sonthalis, and why were you not given the option of refusing to take them on the ground that a poor class of North-West coolies were not suited to the peculiar circumstances of your garden ? It is not right that you should acquiesce in such a state of things. There must surely be a legal remedy when coolies, supplied and paid for as Sonthalis, turn out to be not only North-Westers, but North-Westers of a peculiarly debilitated and feeble type, utterly unfitted for tea garden labour. In conclusion, I warn you once more that if the supplies of labour you are now expecting are not of a type better fitted for tea garden work, I must summon a committee to consider whether your garden is suited for the employment of Act labourers at all. I do not blame you personally. I am convinced that you have done your best to save the lives of the feeble creatures who were sent up to you to ply the hoe. But I cannot allow such a dreadful loss by deaths and desertion to pass unnoticed.

(6) DIPLONGA (*inspected on the 27th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

In 1891 there were 31 deaths, of which 21 were among Act and 10 among non-Act coolies. Of the Act coolies, cholera caused 7 deaths, dysentery 11 (this is the sequelæ of *beri-beri*), diarrhœa 2, fever 2, childbirth 2, burns 1, total 21. The percentage among Act coolies is 8·31, and if 7 cholera cases are excluded, the percentage will be 5·8 ; consequently the garden has come under the black list on account of cholera, which occurred among the newly-imported coolies. One of the wells is out of order, and is not used. The manager will be requested to have it thoroughly repaired, as the other well, which is also close by, is not convenient to the far end of the coolie lines. The *pucca* hospital building in which the manager lives now will be used as a hospital as soon as the manager's bungalow is ready. All the sanitary arrangements are good as regards lines, drainage, and water-supply, which latter will be improved by repairing the other well, as suggested.

(7) MIJIKAJAN (*inspected on the 30th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

In 1891 there were 57 deaths, of which 42 were among Act and 15 among non-Act coolies. The high mortality was due to cholera, which carried away 14 Act and 7 non-Act coolies. Besides this, one death from influenza occurred among the Act coolies ; hence 15 deaths (Act) raised the percentage of mortality among the Act coolies. The manager during and subsequent to the outbreak of cholera was trying his best to put a stop to it. A compounder in immediate charge of a garden having over 900 souls is not in my opinion competent to hold such a responsible post. A duly qualified man for the garden is urgently needed.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was inspected by me and Dr. Borah on the 29th October last. The remarks were as follows :

The manager wrote to me to say that cholera had been lingering on his garden since August ; that he had done his best to cope with the disease, but in vain ; and that he would be glad of advice as to the best means of reducing the mortality. I wrote in reply that Dr. Borah and I would visit the garden at once, and asked him to muster the coolies and get Dr. Ainsworth to meet us. Dr. Ainsworth was there, but the coolies were out at their work. It happened unfortunately that the Calcutta agent of the garden was inspecting on that very day. This may possibly account for the absence of the coolies. We carefully inspected the lines and hospital with Dr. Ainsworth, and Dr. Borah went into the history of the cholera cases with Dr. Ainsworth. He found that cholera had occurred in all the lines ; that the water-supply, as noticed above, was liable to be contaminated ; that a more resolute attempt at segregation should be made ; and that the quarter in which cholera had occurred should be more effectually disinfected. I am writing to the manager in accordance with the Civil Surgeon's advice that all quarters in which cholera has occurred should be left unoccupied for at least a fortnight.

If cholera occurs in the old condemned lines, such lines should be destroyed and the materials burned. In the new *pucca* lines the walls and floor should be scraped and fresh plastered and mudded, and sulphur should be burned in the rooms after closing the ventilation in the roof. Of the total number of deaths among Act coolies, 10 were due to cholera ; and 10 deaths among non-Act coolies were due to the same cause, that is, 20 deaths out of 66 were due to cholera. In the hospital, when we visited it, two cases were people recovering from cholera. The majority of the other deaths were due to dysentery, diarrhœa, and some cases of pneumonia, which last disease had done much damage when Dr. Borah visited it last year. The garden has now come on our black list, and Dr. Borah will have to visit it again. He will be instructed to insist upon all the coolies being mustered. In the meantime our *impromptu* visit, due to Mr. Swinley's letter, will result in Mr. Swinley's being told what he had better do in the way of improving the sanitary state of the garden. I will send a copy of the instructions which I have asked Dr. Borah to draw up to the agents. I think the manager is anxious to do all that he can without incurring exorbitant expenses. His action in writing to me perhaps shows this. Dr. Borah will tell him, having consulted Dr. Ainsworth, exactly what should be done, and I will see that the instructions are carried out. I will call Mr. Swinley's attention to the fact that he can under the Act penally enforce sanitary orders which have been made by an inspector.

(8) DHENDAI (*inspected on the 30th January 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The coolies were mustered and inspected. Lines are on low plinths with defective drainage, the hospital house is not a comfortable place. The manager is going to correct the defects pointed out. The deaths during the year 1891 were 30 (Act 18 and non-Act 12), of which 10 were from dysentery, 3 from dropsy, 3 from fever, and 14 from other diseases. I am inclined to think that the majority of the dysentery cases were nothing but complications of *beri-beri*, which is the fountain-head of many diseases and of high mortality. Of 12 non-Act deaths recorded, 9 were the deaths of children. It is a new garden, and will require careful watching. But I do not think its present state calls for the holding of a committee.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden is returned as unhealthy for the first time. I visited it on the 29th May 1891. It was unhealthy among non-Act coolies, chiefly the children; of the 12 non-Act deaths, 9 were among children.

(9) BARPUKHURI (*inspected on the 29th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The deaths in 1891 are detailed below:

	Act.	Non-Act.	
Cholera	2	1	
Influenza	2	2	
Anæmia and debility	4	9	
Dysentery	8	18	These more or less results of *beri-beri*.
Dropsy	...	6	
Other causes	...	7	
	16	43	

The high mortality among non-Act coolies was due to a large death rate among children (27 in number, of which 15 were from dysentery, 5 from dropsy, and 3 from anæmia). The manager states that last year's batches brought with them sickly children; some came in with dysentery and dropsy. If this can be relied on, then the dysentery, dropsy, &c., are nothing but the sequelæ of *beri-beri*. In the sick and death registers the diseases are not correctly entered, and it is no wonder, as the present doctor Babu, being a mere compounder, cannot diagnose the diseases. A duly qualified man is also required for this garden. The manager tells me that he has written for one, who is expected in April. The other arrangements, such as lines and water-supply, are good.

Deputy Commissioner—

This will be seen to, and the obtaining of the services of a duly competent hospital assistant will be insisted upon.

(10) BANGLAGOR (*inspected on the 21st October 1891*).

Civil Surgeon—

Coolies mustered, and found generally healthy.

Death rate in—

	Act	Non-Act.
1887	...	1
1888	1	2
1889	4	6
1890	1	3
1891	3	15

From the above figures it will be observed that the previous years were healthy, but the year 1891 shows high mortality owing to an outbreak of cholera among the newly imported coolies. Out of the 18 deaths 11 were from cholera; and if these be excluded, the garden mortality will be reduced to little over 3 per cent. Hence I do not see any necessity for recommending a committee. My remarks on Kowpati apply with somewhat greater force to this garden. Of 16 deaths, 10 were due to cholera. This garden is very favourably situated, except that it is peculiarly liable to cholera epidemics. It is close to the steamer ghat, at which all the Mangaldai coolies land. In other respects it is healthy. I visited the garden four or five times during the year, but did not think it necessary to hold a formal inspection. The garden is one of those which might easily be worked with free labour.

(11) GELLADONG (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

The year 1891 shows high mortality owing to an outbreak of cholera. Out of the 30 deaths, 22 were from cholera ; and if this be excluded, the garden mortality would be reduced to little over 3 per cent. Hence I do not see any necessity for recommending a committee.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was unhealthy on both Act and non-Act population.

	Strength.		Deaths.		Percentage of deaths.
	1st half.	2nd half.	1st half.	2nd half.	
Act	13	13	2	...	15·38
Non-Act ...	261	256	24	4	10·75

The deaths among Act coolies were 2 and non-Act 28, total 30 ; of these 22 were due to cholera. This garden is in the black list for the first time on account of outbreak of cholera. It is a small garden managed by a native gentleman, and is usually very healthy. I visited the garden twice during the year, but only recorded an inspection note on one occasion.

(12) TARAJULI (*inspected on the 21st March 1891 and on the 25th February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The coolies were mustered and found generally healthy. Only 30 cases of *anchylostomiasis* were noticed among the labour force. In 1891 deaths were 24 among Act and 29 among non-Act coolies, details being—

	Act.	Non-Act.
Cholera	12	5
Dysentery	6	4
Fever	...	6
Dropsy	3	...
Other diseases	3	14

The high death rate was due to cholera. Deputy Surgeon General Costello and Mr. Anderson, the Deputy Commissioner, who accompanied me to see this black list garden, are of opinion that the lines are (old) not clean, drainage defective, and that the Norton's tubes have been sunk in the lines in objectionable places. Some of the houses are overcrowded. The manager is requested to send the tube water to the Chemical Examiner for examination. The water looks very clear, and tastes ferruginous. This garden has been importing labour somewhat largely, and, like other such gardens, has had bad batches, and these have brought up cholera with them.

(13) SADHARUGHOP (*inspected on the 28th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The largest number died from *beri-beri* and its sequelæ (in the latter can be classified and included diarrhœa 2, dysentery 1), which raised the ratio of mortality to over 7 per cent.; and it is no wonder, considering that 50 per cent. of *beri-beri* among the coolies mustered was found in my last year's inspection. I must say that I did not find any defects in the sanitary arrangements as regards lines, drains, water-supply, and hospital. The manager has started latrines for the coolies behind the lines on a trench system.

* * * * * *

I have inspected this garden for high mortality three times. I think it would be better to have a committee if the garden again shows high mortality.

N.B.—From the registers I noticed that the coolies imported during the first half-year of 1891 were of inferior physique. Out of 35 deaths, 16 died from this lot. If cheap importation is resorted to by the garden agency, it would be better to have a committee to decide whether it would not be better to put a stop to such importation.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was unhealthy in 1884, 1888, 1890, and again in 1891. It lies on a wide open plain near Bishnath ghat, and there is nothing in its aspect or position to suggest the likelihood of its being unhealthy. It has been unhealthy both for new and old coolies. The manager himself has ill-health. There seems to be something wrong with the water-supply. I am about to hold a special enquiry into the state of this garden.

With reference to Dr. Borah's present report, the Deputy Commissioner remarks :

This is the usual cause of heavy mortality in this district. We are importing rather largely at present, and recent *chalans* of coolies, though usually described as Purulia coolies of good *jat*, have been deplorably bad, anæmic, and unfitted to support the conditions of tea garden life.

(14) PANBARI (*date of inspection not given*).

Civil Surgeon—

The total labour force is 153 Act and 111 non-Act; total deaths 10 Act and 14 non-Act, percentages being 6·36 and 11·87 respectively. Of the total deaths, 15 were due to cholera (11 children died—from cholera 8, fever 2, and other causes 1). The high ratio of mortality among the non-Act coolies was due to cholera, which was prevalent in the Mangaldai subdivision. No prominent sanitary defects are noticed. There is no hospital, but the serious cases are sent to Gronland or Singrimari for treatment.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden was unhealthy during the last two years (1890 and 1891), and was on the black list for 1881, 1882, 1884, and 1885. Out of the 24 deaths, 15 were due to cholera, which was prevalent in Mangaldai. It was inspected by the Civil Surgeon. The garden is a small one, and a very few deaths suffice to put it on the black list.

(15) KOWPATI (*inspected on the 9th December 1891*).

Civil Surgeon—

Coolies mustered and found healthy. The death rate for the last five years was—

	Act.	Non-Act.
1891	7	29
1890	6	14
1889	1	10
1888	5	12
1887	4	7
	23	72

The village of Garua higher up Dhansiri had cholera. A dead body was stuck above the garden. The men using the water got cholera; the first case occurred on the 29th May 1891, and the last case on the 15th July 1891. Out of 49 cases, 21 died from cholera; hence the high mortality.

I did not formally inspect this garden, but I visited it more than once. It is, under normal circumstances, very healthy, and hardly calls for inspection at all. It is in the midst of *busti* cultivation on the banks of a good river and on the Trunk road. It is worked largely by local labour.

NOWGONG.

Civil Surgeon—

(1) NELLI (*inspected on the 10th March 1892*).

The garden was last inspected by Mr. Brodrick on the 2nd November 1891.
The manager (Mr. F. Walker) was present.

1. *Population.*—The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Act I.	Non-Act.
Men	48	29
Women	57	11
Children	...	17
Total	105	57
Absent recruiting	4	4
Grand total	170	

2. *Lines and drainage.*—There are two sets of lines—the old lines and the new lines, occupied by Ganjamese. The old lines, on the bank of a small stream, are of moderate elevation and fairly drained. They do not appear to be subject to inundation. The huts are semidetached for two families; roofs of thatch, some of which are rather low; the walls of reed mud plastered; they are in fair repair. Some repairs going on now. The new lines are sufficiently elevated. They require to be drained, and the jungle growth behind cleared away. It is found that, generally speaking, coolies cannot be prevented from using the water of a stream where the lines are placed objectionably close to it.

3. *Latrines.*—There is a recent attempt to institute latrine arrangements; the one provided is not sufficient. Separate latrines for men and for women and children are required, also a sweeper to work them. No latrines in the new lines; two latrines are required here also. Hitherto the people frequented the jungle around and the spaces between the tea bushes.

4. *Water-supply.*—There are two masonry wells of about 3½ feet diameter in the old lines, and a *kutcha* well in the new lines. These are under sheds. There are no pumps, cisterns, or tanks. Each coolie draws up water for himself in his own vessel. There was an iron tank near one of the wells, but this has been removed, as the coolies did not use it. The two masonry wells should be cleaned out, and repaired one after the other. A masonry well should at once be sunk for the use of the coolies on the new lines. For a time a water-carrier was allowed to supply water from the wells to the people at work at a distance. The manager states that the scheme fell through on account of the coolies not appreciating it. A supply of good drinking water for the coolies at work is so obviously important that the manager has been requested to have this supplied. It is successfully carried out in many gardens.

5. *Hotel and dieting.*—A sort of hotel system was in use for a time, but this has ceased. The hospital is at present empty, as the sick are treated in their huts. Those requiring it receive a sick diet of cooked food, or else subsistence allowance. The advantages of the hotel system of feeding, when generously carried out, are so well known, especially for those coolies who are more or less anæmic or debilitated, that I recommend the hotel be again started. The results are well worth the money spent.

6. *Food-supplies.*—Food-supplies are obtainable at the weekly market held close to the garden on Mondays. It appears to be well attended. Rice was selling at 6 annas per measure of 5 seers. This is a higher price than usual. There are no shops on the garden, but there are several outside, where ordinary food-grains are sold. There is no complaint regarding these.

7. *Medical arrangements.*—The medical man is Dwarka Nath Das Gupta. He has certificates of having served on other gardens. He says he studied for a year at the Dacca Medical School. He has not passed. I examined him, and found him not qualified except as a compounder, and he does not comply with the requirements of rule 122 of the rules under the Act. He was absent for about nine months in 1891, during which time other inefficient men, it appears, were working. The requirements of the Act should be complied with by a qualified hospital assistant being engaged at once. The medicines are sufficient and good. The poisons are separately stored. *Thymol* has been used, but there is no separate register kept.

8. *Personnel.*—The whole of the coolies and their children were inspected in the afternoon in their respective lines. In the old lines 4 men, 6 women, and 1 boy were noted as anæmic, and amongst the Ganjamese, 4 men, 1 woman, and 1 boy were noted as anæmic. These were all in the first stage, and were pointed out to the manager and the medical man for treatment by *thymol*, and the hotel system, &c., and for careful medical supervision during the season. Excepting those anæmic, the people appear fairly healthy, but there are few good jungly coolies amongst them. They are mostly contractors' coolies. There were 7 Act-I coolies on the sick list, *viz.*, 2 dysentery, 1 bronchitis, 1 diarrhœa, 2 fever, 1 scalin.

9. *Mortality.*—The death rate for 1891 was Act 12·65, non-Act 2·41 per cent. The deaths amongst the Act-I labourers comprised 5 dysentery, 1 diarrhœa, 3 anæmia, 1 dropsy, 2 fever, 1 pneumonia, and 1 hysteria, total 14, *i.e.*, 10 men, 4 women. Since the close of the year there have been 3 deaths, *viz.*, 2 bronchitis, 1 anæmia, and 1 abscess. There were 2 deaths amongst the Ganjamese. One man deserted twice, and was imprisoned; he was ill when released from jail; he died in the station dispensary. Manager attributes the mortality to the inferior class of coolies imported. There were 7 desertions in 1891.

10. *Recommendations*—

(1) The two masonry wells to be cleaned out and repaired.
(2) A masonry well to be sunk at the new lines.
(3) The people out at work to be supplied with well water.
(4) The hotel system to be again brought into use.
(5) A qualified hospital assistant to be appointed for the medical care of the coolies.
(6) Sufficient latrines to be provided for men and for women and children in both sets of lines, and a sweeper appointed to look after them properly.
(7) The new lines to be drained and the jungle cut away.

I consider these as most important, and that they should be carried out without delay.

Deputy Commissioner—

The mean strength of Act coolies for the year was 125; the number of deaths 16, making a death rate of 12·65 per cent. The deaths were due to—dysentery 5, fever 2, dropsy 1, anæmia 3, other causes 5. In 1889 the rate was *nil*; in 1890 6·5. There were no deaths in 1889. This garden was medically inspected by the Civil Medical Officer on the 10th March 1892, and he reports that the water-supply is not as good as might have been expected, and that the native doctor is not a qualified man. The class of coolies, too, is not good, being mostly contractors' coolies. The attention of the manager has been drawn to the various points noted by the Civil Medical Officer, and the garden will be visited again shortly to see what has been done towards carrying them out. This garden was inspected by Mr. Brodrick, Assistant Inspector of Labourers, on 2nd November 1891.

(2) Lengteng (*inspected on the 24th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

1. *Population.*—The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Act I	199	202	...	401
Non-Act	159	147	378	684
Grand total	...	...	...	1,085

2. *Mortality.*—The mortality rate during the year 1891 was—

Act-I coolies	8·47 per cent.
Non-Act „	5·09 „

The non-Act people were healthy. The death causes amongst Act-I coolies were—*anchylostomiasis* 5, cholera 3, influenza and pneumonia 7, dysentery 2, abortion and childbirth 2, old age 2, Bright's disease 1, heart disease 1, heat apoplexy 1, abscess 1, syphilis 1, total 26. There was an epidemic of influenza of a severe type causing much sickness, and 7 deaths were due to this cause. Two men went in to Nowgong to obtain recruiter's licenses; these died from cholera immediately after their return from the station. Excluding these (12) exceptional causes, the death rate was not high (3·4 per cent. only).

3. *Sick list.*—The present sick list numbers 54 persons, the larger proportion of whom are suffering from influenza. This disease has been prevalent on most of the tea gardens in this district, and has been of a severe type. Many cases have also occurred in the Assamese villages. The Act coolies who were inspected appear otherwise healthy.

4. *Medical arrangements.*—The native medical man is Sheikh Nasir Uddin. The European Medical Superintendent visits twice a week. There is an ample supply of medicines, which are replenished as required from the headquarters garden. *Thymol* has been largely used, and with benefit, in conjunction with the hotel system, which has been long in force. Vaccination has been done. The medical arrangements are satisfactory.

5. *Lines.*—The lines are good. Elevation, drainage, &c., all satisfactory.

6. *Latrines.*—During the past year a number of latrine trenches surrounded by screens have been made. These are placed at convenient distances from the lines, and have been fairly successful; they are in good order, and dry earth has been thrown in daily.

7. *Water-supply.*—Is from three good wells properly fitted with iron tanks and taps, all under a shed. The tanks are filled by means of a large tin drawn up by two men. Water from the wells is regularly supplied to the coolies who are out at work. These arrangements are satisfactory.

8. *Food-supplies.*—Rice is largely imported and issued to the coolies. There are three shops in the garden, where ordinary supplies are obtainable. The coolies frequent the Salona *hát*, where ample supplies of all kinds are obtainable. There was no complaint regarding food-supplies.

The medical and sanitary arrangements are good.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden appeared on the unhealthy list in 1890, and again appears on the list for 1891. This garden was inspected by Mr. Brodrick on 12th July 1891, and again medically by Civil Medical Officer on 24th March 1892. The deaths during 1891 were heavy, numbering 26 on a mean population of 315 Act-I labourers = 8·47. The number have been increased considerably, as on the day of Dr. McNaught's inspection there were 401 Act-I adults present. Out of the 26 deaths we may, I think, deduct the following, for which the garden can hardly be held responsible:—Cholera 3, abortion and childbirth 2, old age 2, Bright's disease 1, heart disease 1, heat apoplexy 1, abscess 1, syphilis 1, total 12. This leaves 14 only which would reduce the rate to 3·8, and remove the garden from the list. The Civil Medical Officer reports that all the arrangements on this garden are good; latrines are in use, and are kept clean. The death rate for last three years has been for Act labourers—

1889	2·37
1890	12·7
1891	8·47

For non-Act coolies—

1889	3·42
1890	2·58
1891	5·09

(3) Udmari (*inspected on the 26th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

1. *Population.*—The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Act-I coolies	57	62	...	119
Non-Act ,, ...	40	38	176	254
Total	—	—	.....	373

2. *Mortality.*—The mortality rate during the year 1891 was 8·78 per cent. amongst Act-I coolies. The non-Act were healthy. The death causes were cholera 3, diarrhœa 4, dropsy 1, anæmia 1, ulcer 1, total 10. Excluding cholera, the death rate would not be very high, 5·8. The dropsy and the anæmia were probably *anchylostomiasis*.

3. *Medical arrangements.*—The resident medical man is hospital assistant Tarak Chandra Pal. There is a good supply of medicines, and another supply is expected to arrive soon. *Thymol* has been used, but I think not so freely as it should have been. At the inspection of the Act coolies, two men and seven women were noted as anæmic, and amongst the sick three women were noted as anæmic, and were pointed out for treatment by *thymol* and for careful feeding on the hotel system. The hospital assistant, had he been attentive, would have noticed these people, and have had them placed under proper treatment. The hotel system was in force for a time, it appears, but gradually ceased. The great necessity there is for such a system of feeding weakly or anæmic coolies has been pointed out to the manager, who promises to start it at once; also that the hospital assistant should now and then inspect the coolies for the early detection of anæmia and appropriate treatment, and to regularly (twice a month) inspect the children in the lines to see that they were properly cared for. Vaccination has been attended to.

4. *Lines.*—The lines have been under reconstruction, and are much improved in drainage and buildings.

5. *Latrines.*—There are no latrines. The coolies frequent the jungle and spaces amongst the tea bushes. The manager promises to start latrines as soon as possible.

6. *Water-supply.*—One masonry well and two *kutcha* wells form the present water-supply, and two new wells are in course of being prepared. If these are made *pucca*, they will provide an ample supply. The provision of iron tanks and taps, the whole to be placed under a roof, has been recommended to the manager. For bathing and washing of clothes a *bund* is being raised to form a tank. Water is carried to the coolies at work at a distance.

7. *Food-supplies.*—There is a shop on the garden; the supplies are good. There has been no complaint regarding them. The coolies frequent the Samaguri *hát*, about 3¼ miles distant.

Deputy Commissioner—

Udmari's first appearance. Death rate amongst Act labourers in—

1889	4·63
1890	3·9
1891	8·96

Amongst non-Act coolies—

1889	1·47
1890	1·85
1891	5·75

In 1891 the mean strength of Act-I labourers was 111, of whom 10 died. The deaths were as follows:—Cholera 3, diarrhœa 4, dropsy 1, anæmia 1, ulcer 1. Of those perhaps the three first and the last should not count against the general healthiness of the garden. Deducting those, the rate would be 5·4 per cent. This garden was not inspected during 1891. Dr. McNaught inspected the garden medically on the 26th March 1892. His report is attached. He remarks especially on the water-supply and the re-establishment of the hotel system. His remarks have been forwarded to the manager for information and guidance, and a visit will be paid during the rains to see that the suggestions have been attended to.

(4) ANJUKPANI (*inspected on the 28th February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This is an out-garden of the Salona Tea Company under Mr. J. Henderson's management. The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Act	9	12	...	21
Non-Act	60	55	63	178
Grand total	69	67	63	199

The garden was reported to have had a mortality of 7·77 amongst the non-Act population. The Act labourers were healthy. During 1891 there was one death amongst Act labourers—a woman, cause miscarriage. Amongst the non-Act population death causes were—

1	*anchylostomiasis.*
5	pneumonia.
1	diabetes.
1	diphtheria.
1	dysentery.
3	fever.
1	old age.
1	premature birth.
Total ... 14	

Four of these were amongst infants. There had been an outbreak of influenza, which caused 5 deaths from pneumonia, occurring during its course.

On the day of inspection there were 4 sick, *viz.*, 1 phthisis, 1 worms, 2 influenza. The latter disease has been very extensively prevalent in the tea gardens during the present cold season, and has been of a more severe type.

I found two persons only who were slightly anæmic, and brought them to the notice of the manager for the *thymol* treatment.

The population seems quite healthy, generally speaking. The coolies are of good physique; they appear well to do, and are contented.

Rice is supplied by the manager at Rs. 3 per maund. There is a shop on the garden, where ordinary supplies of good quality are procurable. The food-supplies are ample.

There is a large proportion of children, and they all appeared healthy. Vaccination has been successfully done during this cold season.

There are plenty of cows, goats, and fowls belonging to the coolies.

The site of the lines is good, well elevated, sufficiently drained, cleaned, and is not shut in with jungle.

The houses are very good, are semi-detached, sufficiently raised, kept in proper repair, are not overcrowded, and there are either *charpoys* or *changs*.

The water-supply is from a Norton's tube-well; it is conveniently situated at one end of the lines, is fenced in, and sufficiently drained; it never fails; gives an ample supply of good water; is in constant use, and is much appreciated by the coolies.

The medical arragements are under the supervision of a European medical officer. The native doctor visits daily where there is any sickness, and medicines are sent daily from the headquarters as required. There is also a supply of simple medicines kept ready for emergencies.

I have no fault to find with the care taken of the people or with the sanitary arrangements.

The garden has not been on the unhealthy list for years; and had it not been for the unavoidable mortality due to the outbreak of influenza, it would not have appeared on it for 1891.

Deputy Commissioner—

This garden had a mean strength of 180 with 14 deaths=7·7 per cent.

It was inspected by Mr. Brodrick on 14th July 1891 and again by Dr. McNaught on 28th February 1892.

The 14 deaths include those of 4 infants, and 5 died from influenza and its sequelæ. The Civil Medical Officer reports that he has no fault to find with the care taken of the people or with the sanitary arrangements.

(5) Siconi (*inspected on the 22nd March 1892.*)

Civil Surgeon—

1. *Population.*—The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Act I	65	66	...	131
Non-Act	68	45	158	271
Grand total	133	111	158	402

2. *Mortality.*—The mortality rate during 1891 was—

Non-Act people	7·69 per cent.

The Act I were healthy.

The death causes were amongst adults—1 dysentery, 1 diarrhœa, 1 cholera, 1 old age, 1 syphilis; amongst children—5 convulsions, 4 dysentery, 1 fever, 1 bronchitis, 1 erysipelas, and 1 *anchylostomiasis, i.e.*, 5 adults and 13 children, total 18 deaths.

The list discloses nothing specially, and it could not be ascertained that any particular or avoidable causes were at work to result in the somewhat higher mortality amongst children. The whole of the non-Act people and the whole of the children of those under the Act were inspected. They were generally healthy, and appeared cared for. The mothers are excused work when their children are ill, so that they can look after them. Vaccination has been successfully done.

3. *Medical arrangements.*—There is a resident hospital assistant who has a diploma, and he appears to be careful and attentive. There is a good supply of medicine. The *thymol* treatment has been fully used.

4. *Food-supply.*—There is a shop on the garden, and the people frequent the Jaklabandha *hát*, which is about 2½ miles distant. Supplies have been ample, and there are no complaints about them.

5. *Water-supply.*—There is a good water-supply from three wells, two of which have tanks and taps fitted; all have sheds over them. Well water is supplied to those out at work.

6. *Drainage.*—This is naturally good; some improvements required. This the manager promises to do.

7. *Latrines.*—There are no latrines. The necessity for these has been pointed out to manager.

8. *Lines.*—The site, elevations, and general arrangement of the lines are good. The houses are in good order and repair.

There appears to be nothing else requiring special remarks.

Deputy Commissioner—

Mean strength of non-Act population was 232, deaths 18, death rate 7·7. This garden was inspected on 9th October 1891 by Dr. McNaught and again by the same officer on 22nd March 1891. This garden appeared on the list for 1889 on its Act coolies. Of the 18 deaths, only 5 were those of adults, the balance being those of children; 5 of the latter were from convulsions; 3 of the former should not count against the general healthiness of the garden, being caused by—cholera 1, old age 1, and syphilis 1. The death rate reduced would amount to 4·3 only. The Inspector finds no fault with the garden death rate for—

	For Act coolies.
1889	17·9
1890	5·6
1891	6·25
	For non-Act coolies.
1889	6·91
1890	1·37
1891	7·7

(6) KOLIABAR (*inspected on the 8th October 1891*).

Civil Surgeon—

1. *Inspection Report.*—The last inspection report was not available in the office for reference. The manager is Mr. H. L. Smith, who accompanied me. A muharrir resides at the garden. This is an out-garden of the Koliabar tea estate, of which the headquarters are at Silghát, distant about 3 miles.

2. *Labour force.*—The whole of the adults and children were paraded in the lines, and were carefully examined. They were found to be healthy, robust, and of good physique, and the children strong, and, judging by appearance, properly looked after by their parents. There are no special arrangements for looking after the children, as this is efficiently done by the parents. Orders are in force that in case any of the little ones become sick, the matter is to be reported by the line chaukidár to the muharrir, so that medicines may be obtained at once from Silghat. Mothers have leave without pay given them to look after their sick children; orphans are given in charge of some women, and food is supplied by the garden in such cases.

3. *Vaccination.*—Some of the children require to be vaccinated in the cold season. The manager informs me that some of the people objected to have vaccination done last season. As instructed, an effort is to be made to have all requiring it vaccinated if possible, otherwise the names of objectors are to be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office. A supply of lymph has just been given to the hospital assistant.

4. *Anæmia.*—At the inspection the following anæmia cases were picked out for treatment by *thymol*:—1 man, 2 women (one slightly affected), and 1 boy, also a man who is sick with dysentery and anæmia. At present the sickness is slight and cases few—anæmia, fever, coughs, and ulcers. Cases of serious illness are sent for treatment to the headquarters garden, where there is a hospital and the hotel system of feeding. Slight cases are treated in the lines at Sonari. There are no cases known as *kála-azár* within the lines or villages in this quarter.

5. *Medical Officer.*—Hospital assistant Khairat Ali is the medical officer. He resides at Silghát. He fulfils the medical requirements of the Act. There is a large and varied supply of medicines at the headquarters, 3 miles distant, and a few simple medicines are kept at Sonari. During the cholera epidemic the hospital assistant visited the lines every day, sometimes twice a day. Effort was made to obtain a compounder to assist, but such cannot be readily obtained on an emergency.

6. *Statement of deaths.*—The following is a statement of the causes of deaths during 1891 up to date :

Months.	Deaths from cholera.					Deaths from other causes.					Total.					Grand total.
	Act.		Non-Act.			Act.		Non-Act.			Act.		Non-Act.			
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women	Children.	Men.	Women.	Men	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
February	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
March	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
May	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
June	6	6	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	1	3	..	16
July	..	1	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	4	6
October	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Total	7	8	3	3	4	..	1	..	..	1	7	9	3	3	5	27

The following are the dates on which the deaths occurred ;

Cholera.

May ... 2	22nd June ... 1	2nd July ... 1	6th October ... 1
	23rd „ ... 3	3rd „ ... 1	
	25th „ ... 1	8th „ ... 2	
	26th „ ... 6	12th „ ... 1	
	27th „ ... 2	15th „ ... 1	
	29th „ ... 1		
	30th „ ... 2		
Total ... 2	... 16	6	

There were 6 recoveries from cholera also. There are but few deaths from other causes, because the more serious cases are transferred to the Silghát garden. Cholera was said to have been prevalent at the time in some villages not far from this garden.

7. *History of outbreak.*—The following is the statement given of the outbreak on the 21st June 1891. Seven men went to the Samaguri *hát*, about 14 miles distant, through fields and pathways. They left on Saturday. During the return journey on the following day, a man of the party, named Birsa, took ill of cholera and died on the road at the Diju bridge. His body was thrown into the river. The other six men were not affected. A woman died in the house of one of the party on the day following their return, after which cholera irregularly prevailed in the lines until 15th July ; but as there had been two deaths in May and none of the six were affected, there is no reason to believe that cholera was imported by this party from the *hát*, though this is alleged to have been the case. The houses were disinfected with sulphur, and large wood fires were kept burning in the spaces between the rows of houses, and sulphur frequently used in these fires. The manager states that he obtained additional supplies of sulphur, in all costing Rs. 150, for fumigation. From what I saw I believe the manager has paid every attention in his power to the health of the coolies. The flooring under the patients that was soiled with cholera discharges was dug up and carefully buried outside the lines, and new earth was filled in. The bodies were burned at a distance from the lines away from the water-supply. The manager has been advised to repair, when required, the walls, and mud plaster them, and have a coating of limewash applied to them.

8. *Lines.*—The lines are on a site selected by a committee several years ago ; it is fairly well elevated. The ground is sloping, and has good natural drainage. The houses were all thoroughly repaired during last cold weather, and are in good repair now. The huts are detached in three long sufficiently separated rows, though somewhat close to each other in the rows.

9. *Latrines.*—As in most gardens in the district, there are no latrines. The coolies frequent jungly patches or tea bushes. There was no fœcal odour. There are many pigs in the lines.

10. *Food-supplies.*—The food-supplies are obtainable at the Jaklabandha *hát*, 1 mile distant, where rice is now sold at 5 pice per seer. The manager supplies rice at Rs. 3 to those who require it, but the coolies very largely buy *dhán* (just now selling at 8 *dones* per rupee), and husk it themselves for use. There is a shop near the lines. The food-grains were examined, and found to be good.

It could not be discovered that any improper food, such as unripe fruit, diseased meat, &c., had been used, though of course it would not be possible for the manager to control the food eaten by the whole of his people. During the busy season the people have sufficient time to cook their food.

11. *Water-supply.*—The water-supply is from the Kullong river. The manager says there are two *ghâts*—one upstream for drinking water, and one for bathing and washing clothes below this. It is well known that the river receives many impurities, that it is fouled by the villages on its banks and by the boats passing up and down, and that the supply is totally unprotected, and there is more likelihood that the origin of the cholera is due to the use of such an unprotected water-supply. There is an unused *pucca* well at one end of the lines.

12. *Recommendations.*—The manager has been advised to have this well thoroughly repaired, the mouth raised, cleaned out, and its surroundings properly cleared and cared for. A force pump to be fitted to it, and an iron tank with taps to be provided. The whole to be under a shed, and a man to be told off to daily fill the tank for use, so that the water-supply in future will be protected, and more convenient and suitable to the requirements of the coolies. There are no other points requiring remarks.

Deputy Commissioner—

Mean strength on total population for 1891 was 207, deaths 28, rate 13·4. This garden was inspected by Dr. McNaught on 8th October 1891. Of the 28 deaths, 25 were from cholera which was very severe in June, in which month no less than 16 died, 6 of them on one day. Cholera is said to have been prevalent in the neighbourhood at the time. It is said to have first attacked a man on his way back from the Samaguri hát. I went over the lines the other day with the manager. A fine new well is in process of construction, and will be completed early in April. The coolies are well looked after, and but for this outbreak of cholera, the garden would have been a healthy one. This garden was also inspected by Mr. Brodrick on the 14th August 1891. Death rate for last three years was—

	Act coolies
1889	7·1
1890	8·1
1891	24·14
	Non-Act coolies.
1889	6·91
1890	1·37
1891	8·83

(7) SILGHÁT (*inspected on the 21st March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

1. *Population.*—The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Act I	110	105	...	215
Non-Act	11	21	100	132
Grand total	...	...	...	347

2. *Mortality.*—The mortality rate during the year 1891 was—

Act-I coolies	7·52 per cent.
Non-Act people	8·78 „

The death causes were—

Coolies.		Non-Act Adults.		Children.	
Cholera	4	Cholera	2	Dysentery	1
Suicide	1	Dysentery	2	Spleen	1
Accident	1	Diarrhœa	1	Erysipelas	1
Pneumonia	1	Childbirth	1		
Rheumatism	1	Apoplexia	1		
Paralysis	1				
Hæmoptysis	1				
Fever	2				
Debility	1				
Dysentery	2				
Total	15	Total	7	Total	3

The six deaths from cholera occurred at a time when the disease was prevelent in the Koliabar garden and also in the Assamese villages around. Excluding cholera, the death rate was not high.

There were 83 contractors' coolies imported during the year. These partly contributed to the mortality, through not being acclimatized, and there were several deaths that could not be attributed to the conditions of tea garden life.

3. *Medical arrangements.*—The hospital assistant is Khairat Ali. There is an ample supply of medicines. *Thymol* and the hotel system of feeding weakly coolies have been in use for some time with great benefit and lessening of the daily sickness. Vaccination has been done successfully. At the inspection 2 men, 3 women, and 2 children were noted as anæmic. They were pointed out for the *thymol* treatment. Mothers whose children are sick are excused work to attend upon them. There were 12 births during the year. The medical arrangements are satisfactory.

4. *Lines.*—The lines are very good—well elevated, drained, not overcrowded, and in good repair.

5. *Latrines.*—There are no latrines. The people frequent the jungle and spaces amongst the tea bushes. As much stress has been laid upon the necessity for latrines on tea gardens generally, an effort should be made to comply with the recent general instructions regarding them.

6. *Water-supply.*—There is a deep *pucca* well with a masonry reservoir fitted with taps. This is filled by means of a force pump. The water is good, and has not failed. A new *pucca* well is being sunk. Water from the well is carried to the people who are out at work. Arrangements are satisfactory.

7. *Food-supplies.*—There are several shops close to the garden, and the usual supplies are obtainable. The people frequent the market at Joklabandha, distant about 4 miles. No complaints about supplies. Nothing else of special importance.

Deputy Commissioner—

There does not appear to be much wrong with this garden. All arrangements for water, food, &c., appear good. If the deaths from cholera (4), accident (1), and suicide (1), are deducted, the death rate amongst Act-I coolies is reduced to 4·18. Amongst the 132 non-Act adults, 4 of the deaths should not count. This leaves 3 deaths, making a death rate of 9·3, which is a very high figure. Three children out of 100 died. Over the whole population the deaths counting against the garden would make a rate of 4·3. The manager's attention will be drawn to the question of latrines. Silghat and Koliabara are under the same management. Mean strength of total population in 1891 was 318, deaths 25, mean rate 7·8 per cent. Of these 25 deaths, 6 were from cholera, 1 suicide, 1 accident, 1 in childbirth, 1 from apoplexy. If these 10 deaths are deducted, the death rate would be reduced to 4·7 per cent.

This garden was inspected by Mr. Brodrick on the 12th August 1891, and by Dr. McNaught on the 21st March 1892. The latter reports the medical arrangement and water-supply good, and suggests that latrines be introduced. The manager has been asked to have this attended to.

(8) BALIJURI (*inspected on the 28th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

1. *Population.*—The strength on the day of inspection was—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Act I	15	21	...	36
Non-Act	68	38	68	174
Grand total				210

2. *Mortality.*—The death rate during the year 1891 was—

Act-I coolies	7·27 per cent.
Non-Act people	8·21 „

The death causes were—

Act-I coolies.		Non-Act.		Children.	
Diarrhœa ...	1	Diarrhœa	1	Fever ...	3
Fever	1	Dysentery	1	Fits ...	3
Debility	1	Fever	3		
		Miscarriage	2		
		Cancer	1		
		Paralysis	1		
		Old age	1		
Total	3	Total	10	Total ...	6

The deaths amongst Act-I coolies were few, and the causes ordinary.

Amongst the non-Act people the six deaths amongst children has raised the percentage to above the average.

3. *Medical arrangements.*—The hospital assistant of the headquarters garden visits twice a week, and medicines are sent over daily by the dâkwalla (messenger). A small supply is also kept for urgent use. Serious cases of illness amongst the Act coolies are sent to Udmari for treatment. It seems probable that several of the deaths from fever were from influenza, as this disease has been prevalent.

4. *Lines.*—The lines are sufficiently elevated. The drainage is good naturally, but is in need of improvement, and a general cleaning up is necessary. This was pointed out.

5. *Latrines.*—There are no latrines. The necessity for these was pointed out.

6. *Water-supply.*—The water-supply is from a *kutcha* well. The water of a stream is also used. A new well on a good site is being dug, and this, if made *pucca*, will provide an ample supply.

7. *Food-supplies.*—These are obtainable at the Chapanalla *hât*. No complaints made about this.

8. *Recommendations.*—Recommendations made that the drainage of the lines be improved; that there be a general cleaning of the lines, and that they be kept clean; that latrines be provided agreeably to recent general instructions; that the well now being dug be made *pucca*; that a proper register of deaths, births, and vaccination be kept up in a separate book, and that as far as possible serious cases should be sent to Udmari for treatment and proper care.

Deputy Commissioner—

First appearance. Mean strength on total population for 1891 was 238, deaths 19=8 per cent. This garden was not inspected in 1891, but was inspected medically by Dr. McNaught on 28th March 1892. Eight of the deaths would not count against the garden, *viz.*, 2 miscarriage, 1 cancer, 1 paralysis, 1 old age, 3 fits, total 8. Deducting these, the death rate would be 4·6 only, so that the garden is really not a specially unhealthy one. The Civil Medical Officer has made several suggestions, which I will see are carried out by the manager.

SIBSÁGAR.

(1) MARIANI (*inspected on the 30th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This garden was inspected by me on the 30th March 1892, a special sanitary inspection being made in consequence of the high rate of mortality among 'Act' coolies last year, it being 9·46 per cent., though only 5·22 amongst non-Act coolies. The mortality among Act coolies has been 6·06. This is still high, and the only explanation that can be afforded is that a certain amount of cholera occurred, that a large batch of coolies was brought up just as the rains broke, and an exceptional amount of mortality occurred amongst this batch. This year bringing up so many at so unhealthy a time has been avoided. The new coolies have been, as far as possible, brought up in the cold weather, and it is hoped that this may be productive of good results, and that the garden will resume its usual state of healthiness. All previous recommendations have been carried out, or, as in the case of the water-supply and new lines, are now being carried out. Drainage is good in new lines, but in the old the water does not run off readily, especially at the back of the houses. I pointed this out, and was told that it was being remedied. The ground is not below the level of the surrounding country, so there will be no difficulty in seeing to this.

Latrines.—There are none. The coolies ease themselves in the tea, and there is no fear of the water-supply being polluted thereby.

Food-supply.—Food is looked after carefully. The coolies are given sufficient time to prepare it, and good water is taken out to them when at work. New coolies are dieted, and all those suffering from diarrhœa or debility attend at the feeding depôt, and are fed there. Vegetables are sold in the bázár, and there is a good supply of them.

Water.—One large *pucca* built well at the tea house, two good ones in new lines, and one in segregation lines. The latter wants to be covered in and built up; it is not in use at present. The water from wells is said to have a good deal of iron in suspension, with the exception of the one near the tea house, and is rather bitter to the taste; otherwise is good. The old lines are supplied from the river, and arrangements are now being made to lay down pipes and supply all the lines with river water. The river here is deep and wide; its banks appear to be free from any source of pollution, and there are no villages along its banks; it ought to afford an excellent water-supply if well filtered.

General health appears to be good. Nearly all the coolies were of good physique. I noticed a few cases of scurvy, nearly all amongst a particular batch, and pointed out its presence.

Of the deaths that have occurred amongst Act coolies—

7	have been	due to	dysentery.
7	„	„	cholera.
3	„	„	fever.
3	„	„	pneumonia.
4	„	„	diarrhœa and bronchitis (two to each).
7	„	„	puerperal fever, dropsy, bedsore, debility, pleurisy, poisoning, accident (one to each).

There was one case of *anchylostomiasis* in a non-Act coolie. All cases of this disease are treated at once, and all sick and convalescent coolies are dieted and their food prepared carefully, and till fit they are not allowed to work. The poison cupboard is kept locked and properly labelled.

The new lines which are being built are excellent,—*pucca* built walls, and a good space is left for ventilation between the walls and overhanging eaves. Sixty new houses have been completed this year, and with a view to preventing any possible source of unhealthiness, they have been built on ground previously well drained and under tea, not on recently cleared jungle land. All the new coolies are lodged in these houses, and are provided with trestles 4 feet high to sleep on. The infant population is well looked after.

The garden is under the medical charge of Dr. Lawrence, who lives on it. Vaccination is thoroughly carried out. No jungle has been cleared lately, and no new coolies are allowed to work on recently cleared jungle ground.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(*a*) Arrangements for a good supply of filtered water should be made with all possible speed.

(*b*) The water in the wells contains iron salts in suspension. I should recommend, and the same idea had occurred to Dr. Lawrence previously, that the well water should be allowed to settle in a tank after being drawn, so as to admit of all material in suspension to sink to the bottom, and then the clear water drawn off by some siphon arrangement from the upper level, and then filtered. Dr. Lawrence might give his valuable opinion as to how this succeeds if the experiment is tried first of all on a small scale, and as to the analysis of the filtered water thus obtained.

(*c*) The well near the segregation hut should be covered in and built up.

(*d*) The surface drainage of the old lines should be attended to without delay.

Every sanitary precaution seems to be taken on this garden, and I am sure that the great thing needed to ensure its healthiness is the speedy completion of a system for supply of good filtered river water to the old lines, and it is to be hoped this will soon be carried out.

(2) CINNAMARA (*inspected on the 29th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This garden was inspected by me on the 29th March 1892, a special sanitary inspection being made in consequence of the high mortality last year amongst Act coolies, amounting to 7·61 per cent.

The causes alleged for this excessive mortality are—(1) an outbreak of cholera, (2) the fact of two batches of coolies of particularly bad physique having been brought up that year to the garden. There seem to be some grounds for believing these to be the causes of the excessive mortality, as the garden has always been a healthy one hitherto, and all sanitary precautions are carefully carried out on it. And of the deaths which occurred, the larger proportion were among coolies belonging to the batches referred to since last inspection on the 23rd November 1891. The death rate amongst non-Act coolies has been almost *nil*, but amongst Act coolies it has continued to be high, 29 deaths having occurred in this latter class, of which—

Dysentery accounts for	7
Diarrhœa	6
Influenza and its sequelæ	8
Debility	2

and *anchylostomiasis*, puerperal fever, liver abscess, phthisis, fever, pneumonia account for one each. The epidemic of influenza has been very severe in this garden. The first case occurred on the 15th February of this year. In February, out of 402 admissions for all diseases 58 admissions were for respiratory affections. In January, out of 526 admissions 130 were for respiratory affections. In March, out of 813 admissions 657 were for respiratory affections. Sickness this year will have, therefore, been unavoidably increased by the epidemic of influenza, and not by any defect in hygienic or sanitary arrangements.

The drainage is excellent, the lines are well situated, and a deeply cut central drain with a good fall carries away all the water.

Latrines.—There are none. The coolies ease themselves amongst the tea, and nowhere near the vicinity of the water-supply.

Food-supply.—Food is good, and care is taken as to supply of vegetables. Dr. Banerji's recommendation that limes should be pickled and given out occasionally has been carried out, though not on a large scale. Only good water is used for cooking. When at work in the distant grounds, good water is brought out to the coolies; and they are allowed two hours for cooking their food in the middle of the day. All sick and convalescent coolies are carefully dieted on the 'hotel' system in depôt houses, and till they are strong they are not sent out to work. No sickness can be traced to sudden change of diet.

Water.—A large tank, well railed in and free from any source of contamination. It is at present being deepened, and this seems to be very necessary, as the water-supply this year seems to be scanty. This is attributed to the dryness of last season. The water is pumped into a cistern, from where it is then filtered, and supply pipes lead from the cistern of the filter. There are two wells, but these are now dry. They are well protected, railed in, and door kept locked, and water is pumped into a large stone tank outside and filtered.

The general health of the coolies is well looked after. There is an excellent hospital with good accommodation. There appears to be a certain amount of *anchylostomiasis*; it is treated with *thymol*.

There were two deaths entered as due to debility. Enquiry was made as to whether there was any chance of these being due to *anchylostomiasis*; and it was ascertained that one of these cases was admitted for cholera originally, and death followed from debility about a fortnight after; and the other case was debility due to remittent fever originally. The former case ought really to have come under the heading of cholera.

The poisons are kept under lock and key, and the cupboard containing them is properly labelled.

The children are well looked after, mortality being *nil*. This is surprising, and shows what good food will do. Probably had the adult coolies been accustomed to the same in their childhood and prior to coming to the garden, the mortality amongst them would have been the same as amongst any other community, or less. The conditions under which they now live are vastly superior to those enjoyed by any ordinary community.

Vaccination is carefully carried out.

The native doctor appears to be a well-informed man and to take great interest in his work. Blankets are given out, and flannel clothing is being issued to those suffering from influenza.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(*a*) The native doctor should every fortnight hold a medical inspection of all the new coolies, as the only way to check the excessive mortality would seem to be by detecting disease early. The native doctor himself says it is very rare to get a new coolie coming to hospital at once if ill.

(*b*) Special attention should be paid by the native doctor to scurvy, as there seems to be a certain amount among the new coolies. An issue of preserved limes should be made at least twice a week to all new coolies, as they come up from districts where scurvy is prevalent.

(*c*) The health of the garden is improving. The epidemic of influenza which has been raging last month will probably keep up the rate of mortality for the first half of the year, but during the second half the garden will almost certainly be found to have regained its character for good health, as all sanitary precautions are carried out thoroughly.

(3) GARIA HABI (*inspected on the 13th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

A special sanitary inspection was made on the 13th April 1892, the mortality for the year 1891 having amongst Act coolies amounted to 7·61. Amongst non-Act coolies it had been only 1·07. The last inspection had been made on the 18th of May 1891, when no special recommendations as regards any sanitary measures were made. No special class of coolies has been unhealthy.

Lines and drainage.—The lines are placed on fairly high ground, and the drainage is good. The houses themselves are not good ones, there are several that should be condemned and rebuilt, others that require re-thatching. The eaves of the roofs come very low down ; this in itself is good, but the coolies have in many houses built up an outer wall to meet these low eaves, and have thus completely cut off all ventilation. They ought not to be allowed to do this ; and this was pointed out.

Latrines.—The coolies ease themselves in the tea. There are no latrines. They are not likely to contaminate the water-supply, as they go to a distance.

Food—Is sufficient, and is of good quality and is properly cooked. Vegetables are provided to those coolies who appear scorbutic, and there is a plentiful supply always in the bázár. Time for cooking food in the middle of the day is ample. Sickness cannot be traced to any sudden change of diet. New coolies and those that are sickly and the convalescent are dieted, and their food is cooked for them.

Water—There is a large tank well situated, railed in, and with no possible source of contamination near. Owing to the scantiness of the rainfall this year, the water in it became very low, and on the first heavy rain it became very muddy, and at the time of my inspection it was in this condition. Even after being filtered the water remained muddy. This is the first time this has occurred, and it is clearly due to the tank having run so very low this year. This sediment will have settled in a fortnight or so ; and as a good supply of water can be obtained from the old tank which was only given up because of its not being large enough, I see no reason to make any recommendation except that as there is no filtering apparatus attached to the old tank, its use should be given up directly it is possible. The new tank will not, I think, run as low another year.

General health.—The mortality since last inspection held on 1st May 1891 has amounted to 6·59 amongst Act coolies, ·6 amongst non-Act. There has been a great deal of influenza, and 4 deaths occurred in March, due to pneumonia subsequent to influenza.

No cases of *anchylostomiasis* have been under treatment lately, according to the registers, but I see several deaths have occurred from debility and dropsy, at least are so entered. On referring to one of these cases, that of 'Mithia', I find that this woman was admitted on 6th July 1891 for fever, then again in September for dysentery, and finally for dropsy and anæmia, of which she died in December. This case bears a striking resemblance to one of *anchylostomiasis*. The coolies were a fairly healthy looking lot. I saw two cases with symptoms which might have been those of *anchylostomiasis*, and drew attention to these.

Vaccination is carried out. Children are healthy.

Hospital is not a good building. A new ward made has not been erected on a high enough plinth. But as bad cases are, if it is possible to move them, sent to Cinnamara, there are not many treated in this hospital.

Since last inspection there have been—

6	deaths	due to pneumonia.
2	,,	,, chronic dysentery.
1	death	,, cholera.
2	deaths	,, dropsy and debility.
1	death	,, general debility.
1	,,	,, anæmia and dropsy.
1	,,	,, glosso pharyngeal paralysis.
1	,,	,, chronic diarrhœa.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(*a*) The houses pointed out at the time of inspection as unfit for habitation should be condemned and replaced by others, and that others should be repaired.

(*b*) The compounder should keep a careful look out for cases of *anchylostomiasis* amongst coolies coming under treatment for debility, anæmia, dropsy.

(*c*) Should the tank again become so low as this year, it ought to be deepened, but I do not think this will probably be the case.

This garden should, I think, recover its reputation for good health. It has been handicapped this year a good deal by influenza breaking out badly, and there have been four deaths due to this disease, so the mortality must this year continue somewhat high, though probably below 7 per cent. The water-supply from the old tank has not given rise to any outbreak of diarrhœa or other disease, and it will only have to be used for a short time; it seems to be good, and I have thought it unnecessary to make any further recommendation.

(4) HATIKULI (*this garden was not specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon*).

The following remarks are extracted from the ordinary inspection report of Mr. LeMesurier, Assistant Commissioner, dated the 18th December 1891:

A committee sat last year. The water-supply has since been perfected, and is now all that could be wished. The only recommendation was that the hotel system should be introduced for new coolies. This has been done, and all sickly new coolies are now regularly fed. It is a great pity the result has not been better, yet there is a marked improvement between the inspection of 1889 and 1890 (December to June). There were 27 deaths among Act-I coolies; between June 1890 and to-day there have been 30; since the 1st January 1891 there have been 4 deaths only. The waterworks were opened in April; in August the bund burst, and has only just begun to work again. Between 31st July and to-day there have been 6 deaths, 3 of them in August alone. I think this shows that the improved water-supply is having a great effect on the health of the garden. Of the deaths, 18 were of coolies who had been less than 12 months on the garden, of these 12 had been under six months, and of the latter 7 less than three months. It is fair to suppose that many of these were ill when they arrived; probably they were anæmic, as dysentery and debility often mean *anchylostomiasis*. These were *arkati* or depôt coolies. I find they were returned as from Hazaribagh, Manbhum, or Dumka (Santhal Parganas). I have, however, seen the survivors, and find they are all from Ghazipur or Benares. This lot are weakly, anæmic-looking, and dirty almost beyond belief. The manager tells me he has tried everything, but cannot keep them clean. They were fed regularly at the hotel, but the women show depraved appetites by eating mud, &c.

The importation of depôt coolies has now been stopped, and recruiting is conducted by garden sardárs under a European superintendent at Ranchi, all recruits being medically examined before they start. If this is done, mortality should go down. It would, perhaps, be best for the Civil Surgeon to examine the coolie when he comes down, and cancel such agreements as may be necessary; otherwise I fear these coolies will only die, and, as the manager says, they are at present no use, but a costly encumbrance. The same remarks apply to the deserters. Out of 51 of these, 39 had been only a few months (five or six) on the garden before they deserted. They were all brought up this year or last. It is no wonder these people deserted. I have already described the class. They were depôt North-Westers, sent up under false description and probably under false pretences; to such people stopping on the garden meant continual sickness and frequently death. It is no wonder they deserted. The Mikir Hills, at the foot of which the garden lies, with the hill tracts over them, give a ready and tempting means of escape, and two outbreaks of cholera would drive them out in panic. Cholera broke out in July 1890, when there were 7 deaths and 11 desertions, and again in April 1891, when there were 4 deaths but no desertion, but 5 in the next two months. Again in October 9 deserted, all of whom had come up in the rains. This is the season when the roads become open, and flight is possible.

Once the importation of the above class of coolies stops, I expect to see the garden become healthy. The low death rate among the non-Act population, chiefly junglis, leads me to form this expectation.

Deputy Commissioner—

Were it not reported that recruiting from depôts has been stopped, I should recommend this garden as particularly calling for action under section 130 of Act I of 1882. Perhaps the management might be informed that action is not taken for the reason given; and if contractors' coolies are again imported while the garden remains on the unhealthy list, that section 130 and the following sections will be enforced.

(5) HALMIRA (*inspected on the 17th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

A sanitary inspection of this garden was made on 17th April 1892, the death rate for the year 1891 having been 101·5 per thousand. No particular reason for this excessive mortality could be assigned. The newly arrived coolies were the heaviest sufferers. There has been a distinct improvement in the health of this garden. The mortality since last inspection on 31st July 1891 has been 5·5 per cent. amongst Act coolies, 1·2 amongst non-Act.

Lines and drainage.—The new lines which are partly completed are excellent with good natural drainage. The houses are built halfway up *pucca*, and then the walls are composed of *ekra*, the roofs coming down at a good incline, forming an excellent verandah. The old houses are wretched, many of them quite unfit for habitation; and though some of these have been abandoned, yet as there is not room yet in the new lines for all the coolies, those old houses still being occupied ought to be put into a proper state of repair, as it will be some months before all the new houses will be completed.

Latrines.—There are none. The coolies ease themselves in the tea near the lines. I have pointed out to the manager the favourable opportunity which now presents itself of stamping out *anchylostomiasis*. Now that the old infected ground is being abandoned and the new lines are being built at a distance, latrines on the trench system could be started under the most promising conditions for success, and it would only require a little careful supervision at the outset to ensure it.

Food—Is sufficient. The coolies are said to buy vegetables, but I do not think they do sufficiently. Only good water is used for cooking, and ample time in the middle of the day is allowed for meals. All new and weakly coolies are dieted.

Water-supply—Is from a well which does not run dry. It is situated near the new lines; it is situated rather too near a *bhil*. Another well was in course of construction, but the sides fell in, and the idea of making it has been abandoned. This is, I think, a great pity, as it was in a good situation, very deep, and promised to afford an excellent and plentiful supply. The manager talks of making a tank, but nothing seems to have been definitely settled on. I should certainly recommend an additional supply to be provided, as the one well at present in use is too far away from the further end of the new lines.

General health—Appears to be good. I carefully examined every coolie, as it happened to be pay day, and an excellent opportunity was afforded to me as each man came up to be paid. The absence of enlarged spleens amongst them shows that the site is not a malarious one. About 30 cases of *anchylostomiasis* had been carefully treated since last June with *thymol*, and I examined all these, and found that they were now nearly all in very fair health. On examining the hospital register, I found that four of these cases, after having been admitted and *anchylostomes* having been expelled under treatment, again returned in a short time suffering from debility. They were again treated with *thymol*. But on this occasion no *anchylostomes* were expelled. Thus the efficacy of the previous treatment was proved, and under tonics and good feeding they recovered their health.

The hospital is a good building, well suited for its purposes.

The poisons are not kept in a separate cupboard, and this should be seen to. The hospital assistant qualified in the Calcutta Medical College, and is a good man. I was greatly pleased with the way he recognised and treated cases of *anchylostomiasis* in the early stage of the disease.

The newly arrived coolies are fed and looked after, and have not been working on newly-cleared jungle land.

The children are well looked after. The mortality amongst them is, however, somewhat excessive. Of the deaths, 5 have been due to dysentery, 4 to cholera, and 4 to fever.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(*a*) The old houses which are still in use ought to be repaired sufficiently to make them habitable through the rains, as the new lines are not likely to be all completed for some time.

(*b*) An additional well ought to be made soon. The present one is too far away from a portion of the new lines, and though the water in it is said to be good, it is I think too near a *hula*, and might be liable to contamination.

(*c*) Trench system of latrines should, if possible, be introduced. As Dr. Giles pointed out, abandonment of an old infected site is one of the best means of stamping out *anchylostomiasis*, and in this garden this has been done; but as there are probably cases of the disease still existing and at any time new cases may be introduced, to ensure its never again getting any firm hold, I think latrines on the trench system should be given a thorough trial.

(*d*) Poisons should be kept in a separate cupboard, and locked up with a label affixed.

This garden should, I think, become a healthy one under the improvements that have been carried out, and if it had not been for the four cases of cholera, the mortality since last inspection would have been comparatively small.

(6) BIHORA (*inspected on the 31st May 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

Since the 16th of December 1891, when the last inspection was held, up to the date of the present inspection there have been 11 deaths amongst Act coolies, giving for these five and a half months an average death rate of 4·04 per cent. Amongst non-Act coolies there has been one death, giving a percentage mortality of ·55 for the same period of time. Of the deaths amongst the Act coolies—

6 were due to *beri-beri* or *anchylostomiasis*.
2 ditto cholera.
1 was due to heart disease.
1 ditto chronic pneumonia.
1 ditto drowning.

Three of these deaths, due to *anchylostomiasis*, occurred amongst coolies who had not been a year on the garden.

The committee held on this garden in March 1891 reported that all the recommendations previously made had been carried out; since then it has been inspected twice—on 27th June 1891 and again on 16th December 1891, and no further recommendations have been made, with the exception that it was suggested that the importation of North-Western Provinces coolies should be stopped.

The great cause of mortality has been *anchylostomiasis*, over 50 per cent. of the deaths which have occurred being due to this disease. It is difficult to trace the conditions which favour its rise and spread. In many cases the coolies actually arrive suffering from it. I saw one man at the hospital who had only arrived a fortnight before and who was in an advanced stage of the disease. It was difficult to trace the mortality to any particular class of coolie. Those that had come from Hazaribagh and that part of the country seemed to have suffered most. There is no doubt, I think, but that many of the coolies who came up were from the very first subjects for hospital treatment. Dr. Bishop, the medical officer of the garden, states this very strongly.

Lines and drainage.—The lines are situated on fairly rising ground which is well drained, as there is a good fall on each side. On one side the surface water drains off into a deep *hula* with precipitous banks; but there is no proper exit to this *hula*, and I do not consider this is satisfactory, as water is likely to accumulate and the ground to become marshy.

The houses are situated on plinths, which are not high enough, being raised only just off the ground level. There are some excellent deep drains cut round the four sides of the houses, which to a great extent compensate for this want of height in the plinth. The manager proposes, I believe, to change the site of these lines to some high grass land at some distance off. I should strongly advocate this being done, though before the new lines are occupied, all the jungle adjoining this ground should be cleared and cut down. The houses are fairly good as a rule ; some however are bad ones and out of repair.

Latrines.—There are none. The coolies make use of the nearest convenient place. As a step towards checking *anchylostomiasis*, I have urged on the manager the advantages of latrines on the trench system.

Water.—A good sized tank close to the lines with a large filter and cistern and taps. This tank is railed in. The *hula* which I have mentioned before is close to it, and this, I think, is objectionable, as there is no proper means of draining off the water from the *hula*. The tank water seems to be good in all respects, but last year, which was an unusually dry one, the water became very low, and for a short time water was drawn from a large *bhil*, which is at some distance away, and the water of which was previously reported on badly. There are no wells.

General health.—All the coolies were mustered, and I carefully examined every one. The medical supervision and care is excellent. There is a well qualified hospital assistant on the garden, and Dr. S. O. Bishop visits the garden every week. Cases of *anchylostoma* are returned under correct heading. All cases of *anchylostomiasis* are taken under treatment directly the first symptoms appear, and all severe cases are excused work altogether. I saw over fifty patients suffering from this disease at the hospital. One of these cases was the man I have already mentioned as having arrived only a few days previously from Lower Bengal. All these cases are treated with *thymol*, the majority with success and I saw some excellent results ; but there are many other cases which, though taken soon after arrival under treatment and though the parasites are expelled by the drug, yet they never make a favourable recovery. The general physique of the coolies was not very good ; but except those that were under treatment in the hospital, I saw none who were ill or anæmic. I saw some cases of scurvy, and recommended that pickled limes, and if possible vegetables, should be served out. All coolies who are ill and those who are convalescent are fed at the feeding depôts. None that have only recently arrived are set to work on uncleared jungle land.

The poisons are properly locked up and labelled. The infant population is carefully looked after. The food appears to be good and ample, with the exception of the lack of vegetables.

Recommendations.

(*a*) The lines should be moved to the high grass land site shown to me by the manager. I would strongly recommend this, because, in the first place, the present houses are not in many instances good ones ; secondly, they are nearly level with the ground, and the new houses built could have high plinths made, which would be much more healthy ; thirdly, the closed *hula*, which is close to the lines and into which they drain, is, I consider, very insanitary.

(*b*) Before the coolies are moved into the proposed new lines, all the jungle near should be cut down and proper wells or other good water-supply provided, as the present tank would be too far away to be available.

(*c*) Limes should be served out regularly, and if possible fresh vegetables, and great care should be taken as to supplying only good water where the coolies are at work. This is done at present, but it is so important a matter in checking the spread of *anchylostomiasis* that it is impossible for too great precautions to be taken.

(*d*) When the lines are moved, latrines should be made, and every effort made to induce the coolies to make use of them.

The mortality is very great on this garden, and it can nearly all be traced to *anchylostomiasis*. The only way by which it can be checked is by constant watchfulness as to the water drunk by the coolies and by moving the lines to a non-infected site, and seeing that this site is kept free from infection by the use of latrines and the strictest cleanliness. But when new coolies actually arrive with the disease latent, the slightest lapse in these precautions would at once favour the spread of the disease again.

(7) Sonari.

A committee was held on this garden under section 128, Act I of 1882, on the 20th April 1892, and the following proceedings were recorded :

Present—The Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Inspector of Labourers ; Civil Surgeon, Inspector of Labourers ; Mr. W. Walker of Dupling tea estate, employer ; Mr. A. J. Horrocks of Towkak, employer ; Dr. Lavertine, visiting doctor of gardens.

The statement below shows the death rate on the garden for the last five years amongst Act coolies :

	Act.	
	Deaths.	Percentage.
1887	21	9·43
1888	12	4·86
1889	34	10·80
1890	24	7·44
1891	39	15·52

The number of Act labourers at present on the garden is 212. During the four months of the year 1892 there have been 6 deaths among Act coolies, or 2·87 per cent. on the number at present on the garden, in nearly four months. Of these deaths, however, 2 were due to cholera and 1 to choleraic diarrhœa. Outbreaks of cholera have, however, occurred within the last few months on many of the gardens in the neighbourhood, even those ordinarily healthy. Excluding deaths from cholera and choleraic diarrhœa, the percentage for the four months is 1·1, which is not excessive. The lines are being moved to a new site, that which was suggested by Dr. Banerji, late Civil Surgeon. This site is at a greater distance from the Towkak river than the old lines, and a great improvement in the health of the garden may be expected from this step. About 80 Act coolies have already been moved into the new lines, which, it is expected, will be completed within about two weeks. The new houses are raised on high plinths, and the ground surrounding them well drained.

The native doctor, who was complained of, has been dismissed, and a passed man from the Dacca Medical School engaged in his place. The garden has also been brought under the supervision of a European doctor, Dr. Lavertine.

The water-supply is now taken from a large 'Raja' tank to the west of the garden, which used to be dry owing to the *bund* having been cut. The *bund* has been repaired by the manager. The tank contains a good deal of vegetation, and the water requires filtration. We recommend that the water be pumped through pipes to a cistern between the lines and the tank, and there filtered. A filter should be provided as soon as possible. When this is done, access to the tank should be prevented by surrounding it with a fence. The neighbouring villagers should be allowed to take filtered water from the garden filter, when they also can be prevented by a police order from resorting to the tank. We also recommend that the trench latrine system, recommended by Dr. Giles, be introduced on the garden. It appears from the cash book that unrealizable advances to the amount of Rs. 2,534-2-3 have been written off. There are no excessively large amounts now outstanding, and the manager has instituted a system of recovering from bonus on renewal of agreement instead of from monthly pay. We consider that the recommendations made by the Deputy Commissioner at his last inspection have been complied with, or are being complied with, in every detail by the new manager, Mr. Kinghorn, who took charge in the beginning of December 1891. Special attention is being paid to *anchylostomiasis*. In the dispensary there is a list of 140 cases, which have been treated by Dr. Lavertine since the 14th December. Cases of this description were formerly probably neglected entirely, and conduced greatly to the unhealthiness of the garden.

(8) Bihubar (*inspected on the 30th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

A special sanitary inspection of this garden was made on 30th April 1892, as the mortality amongst the coolies, both Act and non-Act, had, during the year 1891, been 13·6 per cent. The mortality causing this very high percentage had occurred chiefly during the latter half of the year 1891, as at the last inspection, which was made by the Civil Surgeon on the 9th July 1891, the percentage of deaths during the preceding ten and a half months had been 3·7 only amongst the whole body of coolies, though amongst Act coolies only it had been 7·36.

At the last inspection there were only 255 Act coolies, now there are 498, and the percentage of deaths since last July 1891 is 14·62. In July 1891 there were 156 non-Act coolies, now there are 316, and the percentage of deaths since that date is 13·38.

Causes of excessive mortality.—The reasons assigned by the manager for this very high death rate are the facts that he has had a bad class of coolie imported lately from the Central Provinces, and that cholera was introduced into the garden by some Kacharis he employed, and caused great mortality. There have been a great number of deaths from cholera, but there have been also an extraordinarily large number attributed to dysentery and debility.

There have been—

38	deaths	from	cholera.	4 deaths	from influenza.
23	„	„	chronic dysentery.	3 „	„ dropsy.
15	„	„	debility.	2 „	„ bronchitis.
6	„	„	fever.	1 death	„ unknown causes.

The coolies from the Central Provinces have suffered most severely, but there is good reason for this, as they have only arrived recently and they live in the lines on the river bank, probably getting their water from the river. The Ganjamis who live in these lines have suffered nearly as heavily. There is no doubt but that the very indifferent water-supply has had a great deal to do with the spread of cholera, as when once it was introduced from outside, with a readily contaminated water-supply, there would be no obstacle to its spread. There is also a great deal of jungle surrounding the lines coming right up to them, and the ground near is not well drained.

The garden itself is situated on fairly high ground, but has most dense jungle coming right up to it, and an enormous amount of jungle has been cleared off within the last two and a half years, the garden having only been started in 1889.

This jungle contains an enormous amount of undergrowth and vegetation, and a great deal of malaria must exist in it, and I found the coolies had been suffering a great deal from fever and spleen.

The want of good drainage to carry off the surface water must also contribute greatly to keeping up a high rate of illness and mortality.

Sanitary measures previously recommended.—All the recommendations made at last inspection are in course of being carried out,

(1) Two new sets of lines have been built at a distance from the river, and it is hoped shortly to make another set.
(2) A good well has been made in the new lines, but owing to delay on the part of the agents the pumping machine has not yet arrived, and is not yet in use.
(3) A good deal of jungle has been cleared, but there is still a great deal too much and fresh undergrowth has in some places sprung up.

As yet there has not been time either to carry out these measures thoroughly, or to test the advantages that may arise from them.

Lines and drainage.—Formerly all the lines were close to the bank of the river, but a great portion have now, in accordance with previous recommendations, been pulled down, and new ones built at a distance. There are, however, still a large number of houses occupied along the river bank. Nearly all of these are built on low plinths, much too low to be of any use, and there is no proper surface drainage ; and there is a lot of stagnant water lying about them. The jungle near them has been cut down once, but a lot of undergrowth has sprung up again.

The houses themselves are bad ones ; they are small, and they ought to be pulled down as soon as possible. The new set of lines is situated on fairly good ground far enough from the river to prevent the coolies taking their water from it. The houses are on plinths which are much better and higher than the ones in the old lines, but they might be made even still higher, and I recommended that this should be done when new houses were added on. They are separate, and their walls are made of *nal* plastered over.

The surface drainage is very bad. There are no proper drains, and a little below these lines is a *hula* into which surface water finds its way. But this *hula* has no exit, as there is a *bund* across it where the ground falls away. Consequently all the ground remains in a state of swamp. This ought to be remedied at once. There is a good deal of jungle coming up very close to the new lines ; in fact, one row has it right up to the back of the houses in it. All this ought to be cut down.

Water-supply.—There is the river near the old lines, and in spite of all restrictions and precautions on the part of the manager, the coolies living here still will drink from it. A new *pucca* well has been made in the new lines, which ought to be an excellent one, but it has not yet been made use of, as the pumping apparatus, though ordered a long time ago, has not yet arrived. It is expected this month. This well is free from all sources of pollution ; it is covered in, but should have a railing made around it, and a filter should be provided. At present the coolies draw water from a large 'Raja's' tank, which is situated close to the new lines. They are not supposed to do so as a rule, but the old well between the new and old lines which was formerly made use of has lately been giving water with a very evil odour. I could not detect this myself ; but it is possible some animal may have fallen into it, and in any case this well should certainly be cleaned out. This 'Raja's' tank should afford an excellent water-supply. It is of large size, and has been lately cleaned, and if it was looked after, would afford an excellent reserve should the wells run dry. At present, however, there is no means of drawing water from it except by walking in and dipping a pitcher in ; it has no railing round it, and buffaloes can and do wallow in it. The manager says he has not railed it in, because he was informed when he laid out his garden that he could not acquire this tank, as it was a public one. The only people near, however, live in one small village ; and if they were allowed to draw water from any cistern that was erected, it would be an excellent thing for themselves and for the coolies on the garden if the tank were railed in and looked after and a proper apparatus for pumping up water from its centre into a cistern was obtained. It ought to be excellent water if the tank is cleaned out and looked after. This might be done in the future, as just now the manager has gone to great expense in making a well and getting out apparatus for it, and this well ought to furnish a sufficient supply together with the old well ; but should it be found not to, some arrangement ought certainly to be made with regard to this tank.

Food—Is sufficient. There is a lack of vegetables. There is no *hát* on the garden, but a Bunnia's shop. The grain he supplied appeared to be of good quality, but the rice was most inferior, and I pointed this out to the manager. For cooking their food the coolies undoubtedly often use river water. They are supposed to bring out good water, and it is also sent out by water-carriers when they are at work. New coolies, if they require it, on arrival are dieted, but it is not a rule for all new coolies to be dieted in this way. Excessive sickness cannot be attributed to any sudden change in diet. I think it is very likely that the Bunnia who has his shop in the garden may supply them with inferior food stuffs, as he seems to have a monopoly and there is no *hát*. I examined all his grains, and, as mentioned, found his rice to be most inferior.

Latrines.—The coolies, judging from the bad odour, seem to frequent the *hula* already referred to. The manager on my recommendation said he would make trench latrines on a suitable site.

General health.—All the coolies were mustered. Their general physique was not very good, but they seemed well fed and nourished. I detected several cases of probable *anchylostomiasis*, which I pointed out. There have not been any cases of this disease treated. The medical arrangements were not very good. The hospital is good enough, and there is a good segregation hut for cholera cases. The hospital assistant is a qualified man of the Calcutta Medical College, but he did not seem to be doing his work well. The manager tells me that he arranged at the beginning of this year for a European medical man from Dibrugarh to visit the garden monthly, but so far the latter has never come in spite of all the sickness existing. There are undoubtedly cases of *anchylostoma* which the hospital assistant has not detected. Poisons were not locked up, but lay mixed up on the shelves with other medicines. Coolies when sick are fed, and are not allowed to go out till they are strong enough to work. Special attention is paid to the health of the children, but they suffer greatly from enlarged spleens. This however seems to be often the case up here, and I do not think it is due altogether to malaria. There is no doubt that the inferior water supply on this garden accounts for much of the

cholera and dysentery, as though the river water is prohibited, it is still used by some of the coolies, and there is as yet no other source of really good water, as the Raja's tank at present used is very liable to pollution, and the new well is not yet in use. The garden also being situated on a new clearing with very dense jungle coming close up to the lines must at first be unhealthy, especially as new coolies have been employed, as the manager found it impossible to get a sufficient number of acclimatised ones or local labour.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

To counteract all these insanitary influences, I would recommend :

(1) Good drains be cut down the centre of the lines and also at the back of the houses, these drains leading with a good fall into the *hula*, which should have a deep channel cut in its centre to carry off this water. This channel should lead through the *bund*, which now blocks up this *hula* and converts it at present into an unhealthy marsh.

(2) The jungle growing at the back of the new lines should be cut down, and all the undergrowth near should be kept down.

(3) The old lines which are still remaining should be removed as soon as possible, and all new houses should be built on high plinths and away from the river.

(4) The tank should be railed in, and arrangements made for pumping water from it into a cistern, so that the water cannot be contaminated by men and animals walking into it to drink and bathe. The old well should be cleaned and filters set up for it.

(5) The hospital assistant should be made to hold weekly inspections of the coolies, and keep a careful look out for cases of scurvy and *anchylostomiasis*. Poisons should be locked up in a cupboard, which should be labelled properly. Proper medical supervision should be insisted on.

This garden should be inspected again within a short time from the present date.

Deputy Commissioner—

It is evident that sanitation has been grossly neglected on the garden. It is on a newly cleared and unhealthy site, and it would appear that new coolies were hastily crowded into the lines and that sanitation was not thought of till afterwards. The manager and proprietors have been most dilatory in complying with the recommendations made by the Civil Surgeon at the last previous inspection in July 1891. I think that action under section 130 of Act I of 1882 might be taken with regard to this garden.

(9) HATICHUNGI (*inspected on the 12th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

A special sanitary inspection of this garden was made on 12th April 1892, the total average mortality having been 7·86 per cent. in 1891 and the mortality for Act coolies alone 10·57. Since the last inspection on 23rd October 1891 the mortality amongst Act coolies has been 2·76 and amongst non-Act *nil*. This shows a most marked improvement. It was not found necessary to make any recommendations at the last inspection. Sickness has not been predominant amongst any special class of coolies more than another, and, excepting for influenza, there has not been any special sickness.

Lines and drainage.—The houses are made of *bajal* (*i.e.*, bamboo), and are not plastered over with mud, and consequently afford no protection against wind and driving wet. This certainly should be seen to. Drainage is good. Water runs off into a big *nulla*, and is carried off.

Latrines.—The coolies make use of the tea, and go to a distance where there is no chance of their contaminating the water-supply.

Food—Is sufficient, and is properly cooked. Limes are issued to the coolies. Only good water is used for cooking. New coolies and sickly and convalescent are dieted, and till they are fit are not put on hard work. No sickness can be attributed to sudden change of diet.

Water.—One deep *pucca* built well—an excellent one in all respects, giving an ample supply. Water is pumped up into a *pucca* reservoir with iron taps.

General health.—Physique of the coolies is excellent—a particularly good batch of new coolies. Medical treatment carried out carefully by a qualified compounder under the supervision of Dr. Shand of Cinnamara. The hospital is a good one. There have been eight deaths since last inspection—

3 from dropsy and diarrhœa.
1 „ debility after dysentery.
1 „ „ „ pneumonia.
1 „ bronchitis.
1 „ dysentery after cholera.
1 „ cholera.

The last two were found on arrival to have cholera. There are a large number of entries of dropsy and diarrhœa in the hospital register. On looking up one of the cases which died on 12th December 1891 and was entered under this heading, I found she had been admitted previously in October 1891 for *anchylostomiasis* and had been previously under treatment in February and March 1890. It is quite possible that other cases entered as 'Dropsy and diarrhœa' should properly have come under the heading of *anchylostomiasis*. The case I refer to was treated quite correctly with *thymol* in the early stage, and it is only the nomenclature under which the compounder entered her case that any objection can be taken to, as it is apt to be misleading. The health of children is good.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(*a*) The houses be properly plastered and efficiently protected against the wet and wind. At present they are not.

(*b*) The compounder be directed to enter cases he is treating for *anchylostoma* as *anchylostomiasis*, and not under the heading of their symptoms, as in the case of Gubari, referred to. The treatment is carried out most properly and correctly ; it is only the mere matter of nomenclature that is apt to be misleading in the returns.

This garden ought to be a healthy one this year ; it already shows great improvement in the amount of mortality and sickness, which is diminishing.

(10) DHEKIAJULI (*inspected on the 29th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This garden was inspected by me on the 29th March 1892, a special sanitary inspection being made in consequence of the high rate of mortality last year, it being 9·51 amongst Act coolies and 5·18 amongst non-Act coolies. Since last inspection on 9th September 1891 up to present date the mortality has been 4·4 per cent. amongst Act and 1·69 amongst non-Act coolies. This is still high for the former, and no satisfactory explanation can be afforded. All previous sanitary recommendations have been carried out. I am inclined to believe that the proximity of the Dhekiajuli river, in which the water is decidedly unfit for drinking, has something to do with the high mortality, especially as a great amount of illness is due to bowel complaints. This water is not supposed to be drunk or used for household purposes, as there is an excellent and sufficient supply of filtered water from a tank in the lines ; but the river is so handy for the coolies that I have no doubt but that unless great precautions are taken, they will make use of it, and probably often do so. The mortality has not been marked amongst any special class of coolies, nor in any one portion of the lines more than another.

Drainage and elevation of the lines are good. The houses are excellent,—well built and well ventilated.

Latrines.—None in use. The coolies are said to relieve themselves amongst the tea, but I believe the river banks afford a greater attraction, and, I suspect, are visited more than the tea. There was visible evidence of this.

Food-supply.—Food is good. Vegetables are supplied by the bázár dealers. Tank water is used for cooking purposes, and is carried out to the coolies when at work, and they are allowed ample time for cooking. All sick and convalescent coolies are dieted.

Water.—A large tank well supplied with water all the year round. The water from it is pumped into a reservoir, and filtered before being issued. Pipes with taps lead from cistern of filter. There is no possibility of contamination.

General health is well looked after. The compounder in medical charge was passed as competent by Dr. Banerji, though he had previously criticised his efficiency. Dr. Shand, of Cinnamara, visits the garden. There is a small hospital in the garden, which rather requires a porch or verandah, as there is very little room in it for sick coolies to wait. Bad cases capable of being removed are taken into the Cinnamara hospital. I saw one case of *anchylostomiasis*. It had been under treatment off and on for nearly three years. There were a good many cases of anæmia, some of which might bear further investigation as to their cause.

Sick and convalescent coolies are fed upon the 'hotel' system, and are not allowed to work till fit.

The infant population is well looked after, and is healthy.

Of 21 deaths amongst Act coolies, 9 were from dysentery, 2 from influenza, 1 from diarrhœa, 3 from dropsy, 2 from debility, 1 from erysipelas, and 1 each from fever, hydrophobia, and old age. The case returned as dying from the last malady was only aged 50 ; rather premature this. Vaccination is carried out thoroughly.

D

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(*a*) I believe the proximity of the Dhekiajuli river to the lines may lead the coolies to draw river water for household purposes in preference to going very little further for good tank water, and the large amount of disease due to bowel complaints may perhaps be explained in this way. I should recommend that strict supervision be carried out over this, and that chaukidárs be employed to prevent coolies either drawing water or making use of the banks of the river to ease themselves by. There is just sufficient brushwood to form a favourable shelter for them, and with their partiality for performing the duties of nature near to water, they are, I think, very likely to make use of this ground. If, as I suspect, they also draw water for household use from here, a source of disease is at once evident.

(*b*) The compounder, who, though up to the standard, is not a bright man, should be told to pay more attention to the classification of diseases admitted at present as 'Dropsy,' 'Debility,' &c., and if possible to define their nature more strictly.

(*c*) A verandah or shelter for the patients coming to hospital is, I think, required, as the hospital is a small building, and I saw patients having to wait for medicine in the rain and wet from want of shelter.

Deputy Commissioner—

If the health of the garden does not improve, the lines will probably have to be removed altogether from their present site.

(11) SOICATTA (*inspected on the 27th November 1891*).

Civil Surgeon—

(*a*) Light work should be given to new coolies for the first three months after arrival. At present the new coolies are made to do generally the same amount of work as the old and acclimatised ones.

(*b*) All new coolies should be fed by the manager for six months after arrival in the garden. The dietary for an adult to consist of—

Rice	...	...	...	...	1 seer.
Dal	...	...	...	...	2 chhataks.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	2 „
Milk	...	...	...	...	Twice a week.
Fish	...	...	...	...	Once a week.
Oil or ghi	...	...	...	...	One chhatak, and salt.

(*c*) Proper ceiling (*ekra* mud plastered) should be put in coolie houses.

(*d*) The present tank should be cleaned and deepened, and filtering reservoir carefully looked after.

(*e*) Every new coolie should be supplied with a pair of blankets.

(*f*) The present compounder should be removed, and a duly qualified native doctor should be entertained in his place.

(*g*) As the garden has been on the black list since 1889, I would recommend that a committee be held on this garden early next year.

(12) DEERING.

A committee was held on this garden under section 128, Act I of 1882, on the 13th March 1891, and the following proceedings were recorded :

Present—The Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon, Dr. S. O. Bishop, Superintending Doctor, Mr. St. G. Showers, employer.

The death rate on this garden in 1889 was among Act coolies 45·5 per cent., among non-Act coolies 10·82 per cent. The death rate among Act coolies in 1890 was 25·99. In both years the high percentage was due to cholera. Besides cholera, there were a few cases of dysentery. Cholera was imported into the garden from the neighbouring villages.

The water-supply has hitherto been the Deering stream—a small stream running down from the hills. Since the last inspection a well is being sunk. The water will be pumped up into a masonry reservoir with filters and cocks to draw off the water. The committee is of opinion that this will afford a sufficient and proper supply of drinking water.

There is a separate hospital with accommodation for in-patients and a sufficient supply of medicines. The committee is of opinion that nothing further is required in this direction. There is a duly qualified native doctor.

The lines are not satisfactory. In the opinion of the committee, the plinths of the huts should be higher. A regular system of drainage should be substituted for the present drains. Cowsheds should be built away from the lines, and as many houses as possible should be removed to a high ridge of ground at a slight distance from the present site.

The coolies were mustered. The sick list to-day was one child suffering from fever. Only one case of incipient *beri-beri* detected among the coolies. The labour force was, on the whole, very healthy.

The committee is pleased to remark that there has been a change of management, and the garden is now under a European manager instead of, as previously, a native muharrir.

As regards importation of coolies, the committee is of opinion that there is no reason to declare the garden unfit for the residence of new coolies, provided that, until the effect of the improvements suggested above is seen, such coolies should be located in new huts on a site away from the present lines.

The following remarks are extracted from the ordinary inspection report of Mr. LeMesurier, Assistant Commissioner, dated the 18th December 1891 :

A committee was held last year, and its recommendations have been, or are being, carried out. A new well will be sunk, the old one having proved a failure, as soon as water is found, and a separate block of huts will be built for new coolies on the site recommended by the committee this season. The committee was held in March, so that no clearing or house building could be done. Meanwhile, new coolies are being segregated and fed, as recommended, in a block of houses away from the lines. All told, there have been only 8 deaths amongst Act labourers, one of which, a case of suicide, should in fairness be deducted when calculating the percentage for other than statistical purposes, and these in eighteen months (from 24th June 1890 to 18th December 1891). Only 4 Act coolies have died during the past twelve months.

On analysing the death rate, I find that only one Act death had been so long as eighteen months on the garden. The others are as follows :—two months, five months, one month, three months, five months, and six months (I have excluded the suicide). One of these was *anchylostomiasis*, and the others (chronic dysentery 4 and pneumonia 2) probably had had the disease. This suggests that the men were almost moribund when they came up, and so in fact the manager tells me they were. I am glad to say that the management have absolutely stopped recruiting through contractors or depôts (whence this year's men came), and are taking to sardârs, whose coolies will be medically examined before they start, and there is a European Superintendent of recruiting to select them.

Remembering that for the last two years the Act and non-Act death rates were respectively 45·5 and 10·82 per cent. in 1889 and 25·99 in 1890 for Act coolies, I consider great improvement has been made, and that there is now good reason to hope the garden will clear itself.

LAKHIMPUR.

(1) Margherita Tea Estate (*inspected on the 18th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

On this garden there are two sets of lines, in the largest of which there is no proper water-supply. The present source is a small stream, to which the following objections apply. The distance from the lines is considerable, the path is bad. Contamination is not only possible, but extremely probable. Add to this the fact that quite close to the lines is another stream the water of which is extremely objectionable in quality, so that it is by reason of its closeness to the lines difficult to conceive that its water is not used by the coolies in preference to the more distant supply. The lines, and in fact the whole garden, is situated on land recently cleared of heavy forest. The site is very elevated, and well-sinking seems to be out of the question. A boring, reaching a depth of 100 feet below the surface on which the lines stand, has failed to reach water. Bowel complaints and chest affections are the chief causes of mortality. The hotel system is soon to be started, and will, it is to be hoped, reduce considerably the mortality from bowel complaints.

(2) Rohmaria, Balijan (*inspected on the 27th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The labour force on this garden has recently been largely reinforced by coolies of a very unsuitable stamp, amongst whom the mortality has been very high. Influenza and its sequelæ—bronchitis and pneumonia—have also caused a very high death rate.

(3) Sessa (*inspected on the 30th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The most noteworthy point in connection with this garden is the short labour staff. It is also to be feared that the Sessa river is frequently used as a source of drinking water. The water of this river is very foul, draining as it does a series of malaria-producing swamps.

(4) Rowmari (*inspected on the 25th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

There having been a change of management at the beginning of the year, it is now difficult to get at the actual facts of the case. The most potent factor in the causation of the mortality appears to have been *beri-beri*, which has evidently not been fully recognised by the Doctor Babu, who merely classed each case in accordance with the most prominent symptoms at the time of death. Thus, if a *beri-beri* patient was dropsical at the time of his death, the case was returned as dropsy, &c. A fully qualified man has been recently appointed, so that this is not likely to occur again.

(5) Samdang (*inspected on the 9th February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

The lines and water-supply are very good, and beyond the fact that the average wages earned is very low, it is difficult to find fault, notwithstanding the fact that the death rate has now been steadily over 7 per cent. for many years. The number of cases of *beri-beri* now on the garden shows a considerable diminution when compared with the numbers to be seen on the occasions of former inspections. The garden has been taken over by the Dum Duma Company, and the medical arrangements have to a certain extent been amalgamated with those of Dum Duma. Thus, the segregation lines at Samdang have been done away with. Suspected batches will henceforth be segregated at Dum Duma. A new manager has been placed in charge since the 14th ultimo.

Deputy Commissioner—

The attention of the present superintendent and manager will be drawn to remarks made by me on inspection in November. A large number of old and acclimatised coolies have been transferred to this garden, and I hope it will not be on the black list after this year.

(6) Mesaijan (*inspected on the 8th February 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This garden has for some years been on the black list. In November 1888 there was a disturbance on this garden, which resulted in the loss of a large portion of the labour force. This necessitated the importation of some 700 souls, most of whom were utterly unfit for the purposes for which they were required, and unacclimatised. The death rate was very heavy, but it has steadily diminished in recent years. The situation of the garden is no doubt unhealthy; it is nothing more than a clearing

in heavy forest jungle to which fresh clearances are year by year added. In November last a committee, consisting of the Deputy Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, and Mr. R. Walker, a neighbouring planter, assembled at this garden to consider and report upon the high death rate on this garden. That report was duly forwarded to the Assam Government.

Proceedings of the Committee held on the Mesaijan garden on the 26th November 1891.

Present—The Deputy Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, Mr. R. B. Walker, manager of Sukariting.

The committee first inspected the block of lines near the bungalow. These lines are situated on a narrow strip of land between the road and the tea, with a deep drain on the road side. The houses are built three and four under one roof, of *ekra* walls with iron roofs on one side of the road and thatched roofs on the other. The lines are free from jungle, and were neat and clean. There are no latrines, but the coolies are made to resort to a certain distance from the lines, any offenders being reported by the chaukidárs. The bulk of the labour force is housed in these lines. There are two wells—one *pucca* which held about five feet of water; the second is under repair; a third well is being abandoned.

The second block of lines, half a mile away, is on high ground, and the arrangements are satisfactory. There is one well.

The hospital was then visited. This is a new building with four wards and a dispensing room. It is in excellent order. There are a number of beds, and the accommodation appears to be ample for any demand that is likely to be made on it. All coolies applying for treatment are put on the sick list, and the committee were assured that none have been rejected and sent back to work. Dr. Norvill now visits twice a week as a rule, and sometimes three times. The native doctor has a hospital assistant's qualification, and is favourably reported on.

The sick were inspected. There were only three serious cases,* in two of which the contracts were cancelled. The sick lists for each month show a marked improvement on those of last year. To-day there are 32 out and 11 indoor patients. This year 6 deaths occurred from cholera, which was epidemic in the district at the time.

* (1) Paralysis on hand.
(2) Heart disease.
(3) *Anchylostomiasis.*

The coolies were then mustered. They appeared to be fairly healthy and well cared for. There were no complaints. Some weakly coolies were picked out, and 7 contracts were cancelled for unfitness. The number of deserters not recovered is 12 to date this year as compared with 19 last year.

The statement of pay and an examination of the pay-book show that the coolies earn a wage much above the average prevailing on neighbouring gardens, the task for plucking being only 6 seers as compared with 7 and 8 elsewhere.

The garden is surrounded on all sides by forest jungle. After the conviction of the assistant manager in 1888, almost all the old coolies deserted *en masse*, and the garden lost all its acclimatised labour, and is now worked by comparatively new coolies, the bulk of whom were recruited in 1888. Another peculiar feature about this garden is that almost all coolies are put under Act I, which is not the general custom. Many of these would on other gardens be treated as non-Act or put under Act XIII. The medical arrangements appear to be excellent, and every attention is given to the health and well-being of the coolies by the present manager (Mr. Cornish), who has carried out great improvements since his appointment. The figures of sickness and mortality referred to above show much better results than last year. But the labour force is being largely recruited from second and third rate coolies of inferior castes and physique, and from districts which do not supply suitable labour. It is among these coolies that the mortality chiefly occurs. The garden has recently been sold, and it is possible that an extension of cultivation on this and neighbouring gardens may render the situation naturally more healthy. Meantime the committee make the following recommendations:

(1) That the garden should be supplied, if possible, with a proper proportion of acclimatised labour.

(2) That only first rate coolies of good castes and physique be imported, if possible, through garden sardárs, and that the recruitment of inferior contractors' coolies from Rewa, the North-Western Provinces, and Ganjam be discontinued.

(3) That all coolies be medically examined before being put under contract as to their fitness to labour.

(4) That the two wells in the first block of lines, which, it is admitted, give a short supply in the dry season, should be deepened and fitted with a pump and cistern, and another well should be dug in the second block of lines to provide for the wants of coolies to be transferred there.

(5) The coolies appear to be housed in too small a space in the first block, and part of the population should be moved to the farther lines.

With reference to the Deputy Commissioner's enquiry as to how far the committee's recommendations have been carried out, the Civil Surgeon writes:

Recommendation (1).—Since the last inspection this garden has been taken over by the Dum Duma Company, and I am informed that a good many labourers have been exchanged between the two gardens, several weakly coolies having been transferred from Mesaijan to Dum Duma, and replaced by robust ones from the latter garden.

Recommendations (2) and (3).—Concerning these I can give no information.

Recommendation (4).—These wells were in progress when I last visited the garden.

Recommendation (5).—Nothing in this direction had been done up to the date of my last visit towards providing a larger space for lines.

(7) BORDEOBAM (*inspected on the 11th March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

Water-supply.—Theoretically the lines are supposed to be supplied by a number of Norton's tube-wells. At the time of my inspection (11th March 1892) not one was in working order, and the whole water-supply had to be drawn from the *bhil* noticed by previous inspecting officers.

Hospital.—A woman died of cholera in her own house on the day of my inspection. This should not have occurred.

Anchylostomiasis.—Not recognised on this garden. There are several cases, but the doctor Babu insists on calling them anæmia, dysentery, &c.

To bring down the death rate on this garden I would strongly recommend that the hotel system be introduced, and that the treatment of diseases, such as cholera and dysentery, be made a purely hospital matter.

Deputy Commissioner—

The garden is rather remote and inaccessible. A copy of the Civil Surgeon's remarks will be communicated to the manager through the subdivisional officer, who will be asked to report at the end of three months whether effect has been given to them.

(8) TIKHAK COAL MINES (*inspected on the 20th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

A considerable improvement has taken place here during the past year. However, very much remains to be done. I consider the chief cause of the high death rate is the absence of any regular hospital, in which diseases like dysentery, &c., can be treated. All such cases have to be removed to Margherita, and it is to be feared that they are not sent there till the case has become a serious one, thereby diminishing the chances of recovery.

Deputy Commissioner—

I have called attention to the large number of accidents due to coal falling in. There have now been 9 deaths from this cause in the mines since 1st January. The mines will be inspected again later on.

(9) LEDO COAL MINES (*inspected on the 19th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

Bowel complaints and chest affections continue to be the chief factors in the production of the heavy death rate at the Ledo mines, situated as it is in one of the valleys lying among the flanking ranges of the Nága Hills. Surrounded on every side by dense forest jungle, the situation is doubtless naturally very unhealthy. A most excellent supply of water has recently been obtained by boring a long shaft into a neighbouring hill. From this pipes convey the water all over the lines. A hospital at Ledo itself is very urgently required. Till this is established, little can be done to reduce the death rate.

(10) DIKHARI (*inspected on the 22nd March 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

Anchylostomiasis is very prevalent on this garden, and apparently the disease has not been recognised. The coolies recently imported are not of a suitable type. Coolies are sent up by the Calcutta agents as belonging to good working *jats*, but on arrival they are found to be North-Western Chamars, &c. The labour force is still short, being about 1·5 adults per acre. The rate of wages paid is extremely low.

(11) NAHOLIA TIPLING (*inspected on the 5th April 1892*).

Civil Surgeon—

This is a small outlying garden of the Hugrijan tea estate. It is situated in a very remote part of the district in the heart of dense forest jungle. The excessive death rate during the year 1891 may be mainly attributed to influenza and its sequelæ and also to *anchylostomiasis*. A European medical officer has recently arrived from England for this estate, and under his care things are rapidly improving.

A. S. P. O. (Judicial) No. 100—300—21-6-92.

REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1892.

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REPORT ON LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1892.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

Classification of immigrants.

The classification of immigrants for the purposes of the present report follows that adopted in previous reports, but the necessary steps are being taken to give effect to a suggestion made by the Government of India in paragraph 4 of Revenue and Agricultural Department Resolution No. 2788-2790—66, dated the 28th November 1892, that the forms from which the figures are compiled should be altered so as to show more clearly the exact facts respecting free immigration to the Assam and Surma Valleys, respectively. With this view district officers have been instructed in future reports to exhibit the number of immigrants (including dependents) under the following heads :

(1) Act coolies not free up to the labour districts, *i.e.*, who have contracted in the district of recruitment—
  (*a*) Sardári coolies.
  (*b*) Contractors' coolies.

(2) Act coolies who are free up to the labour districts—
  (*a*) Contracting at Dhubri.
  (*b*) Contracting in the actual labour district.

(3) Non-Act free.

Provincial figures.

2. The following table compares the immigration of all classes of coolies into the province during the past two years :

		1891.	1892.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act	Sardári adults ...	9,241	13,513	+4,272	+46·2
	Contractors' adults ...	16,071	14,942	−1,129	− 7·0
Non-Act...	Adults ...	12,627	13,347	+ 720	+ 5·7
Total		37,939	41,802	+3,863	+10·1
Children		11,969	14,248	+2,279	+19·0
Grand total		49,908	56,050	+6,142	+12·3

It will thus be seen that, while for the province generally a considerable increase in immigration took place under the head of sardári adults and in the case of children, the increase was less marked under the head of non-Act adults, and there was an actual decrease in the case of contractors' adults. No special explanation can be given of the increased immigration, which was probably due to the opening of new gardens, to extensions of cultivation, and to efforts made by managers to supplement the labour force in cases in which, for some reason or other, it had become inadequate. As regards the Cachar district, where a considerable increase occurred under all heads, the Deputy Commissioner remarks that during the year under report the *tilas* of the early days of tea cultivation were on many gardens deserted in favour of well drained loamy flats for which fresh labour was required. In the South Sylhet sub-division of the Sylhet district several new gardens were opened out during the year under report, or just at the close of the previous year. The totals under each head for each of the past five years were as follows :

	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Act adults	22,601	24,799	17,373	25,312	28,455
Non-Act adults	10,716	12,749	8,832	12,627	13,347
Total of Act and non-Act adults ...	33,317	37,548	26,205	37,939	41,802
Children	12,976	18,110	9,875	11,969	14,248
Grand total, including children ...	46,293	55,658	36,080	49,908	56,050

The above figures show that, except in regard to children for the year 1889, the total importations under each head during the year under report were larger than in any of the previous four years.

2. The following table gives the statistics of importations for each district of the province separately :

District and valley statistics.

District.	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar ..	2,396	3,079	+ 28·50	2,393	3,220	+34·55	4,789	6,299	+31·53	736	1,162	+57·88	5,525	7,461	+35·04
Sylhet	486	1,020	+109·87	7,567	7,175	— 5·18	8,053	8,195	+ 1·76	3,891	4,260	+ 9·48	11,944	12,455	+ 4·27
Total Surma Valley	2,882	4,099	+42·22	9,960	10,395	+ 4·36	12,842	14,494	+12·86	4,627	5,422	+17·18	17,469	19,916	+14·00
Kámrúp ..	367	340	—7·35	156	44	—71·79	523	384	—26·57	179	213	+18·99	702	597	—14·95
Darrang ..	4,932	4,962	+ ·60	292	386	+32·19	5,224	5,348	+ 2·37	1,837	2,091	+13·82	7,061	7,439	+ 5·35
Nowgong ..	1,017	1,166	+14·65	685	507	—25·99	1,702	1,673	— 1·70	492	500	+ 1·63	2,194	2,173	— ·96
Sibságar ..	6,489	7,611	+17·29	458	889	+94·10	6,947	8,500	+22·35	2,405	3,348	+39·21	9,352	11,848	+26·68
Lakhimpur ..	9,625	10,277	+ 6·77	1,076	1,126	+ 4·64	10,701	11,403	+ 6·56	2,429	2,674	+10·09	13,130	14,077	+ 7·21
Total Assam Valley	22,430	24,356	+ 8·58	2,667	2,952	+10·68	25,097	27,308	+ 8·81	7,342	8,826	+20·21	32,439	36,134	+11·39
Grand total ..	25,312	28,455	+12·41	12,627	13,347	+ 5·70	37,939	41,802	+10·18	11,969	14,248	+19·04	49,908	56,050	+12·31

These figures show that the increase under the head of Act adults was common to all districts of the province, except Kámrúp, and was especially marked in both districts of the Surma Valley and in the districts of Nowgong and Sibságar in the Assam Valley. Under the head of non-Act adults an increase occurred in the districts of Cachar, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, while a decrease took place in Sylhet, Kámrúp, and Nowgong. In the case of children the increase was common to all districts of the province, and is a satisfactory feature in the returns of the year, as showing that the Assam gardens are growing in popularity in the districts of recruitment. The above results, so far as they show a decided increase in Act importations into both of the Surma Valley districts, accompanied by a falling off (though not large) in non-Act importations into the Sylhet district, are noteworthy. No explanation is forthcoming of these results except in regard to Sylhet, the Deputy Commissioner of which district writes :

It would appear that new gardens and extensions have to be worked by Act labour, as the non-Act coolie is aware of the unhealthiness of such gardens, and will not go to them. It is significant that the demand for labour on such clearings is met by an increase in the supply of Act coolies, there being concurrently a falling off in the number of free immigrants.

The small falling off under the head of non-Act adults in the Sylhet district is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the fact that the figures for the previous year were abnormally large. The general increase of importations into the Sylhet district was common to all the subdivisions except Karimganj, where the number of non-Act adults imported fell from 4,366 in the previous year to 3,904. No detailed remarks are called for on the figures for the Assam Valley, except as regards Kámrúp and Nowgong, these being the only districts which show a decrease of importations, as compared with the previous year, under the head of either Act adults or non-Act adults.

As regards the figures for the Kámrúp district, the Deputy Commissioner observes that the commencement of work on the Assam-Bengal Railway, which had operated to increase the importations of the previous year (managers having imported more largely with the object of taking up railway contracts), ceased to have any effect in this direction by the close of the year under report, as "the Railway had disappointed most, if not all, contractors and would-be contractors." The falling off

under the head of non-Act adults in the Nowgong district is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the fact that Mikirs, Kacharis, and other time-expired coolies who have now settled on Government lands supply much local labour to the tea gardens.

4. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the various localities of recruitment:

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men ...	657	872	1,123	1,151	579	828	2,359	2,851
	Women...	587	739	1,235	1,248	619	721	2,441	2,708
Total		1,244	1,611	2,358	2,399	1,198	1,549	4,800	5,559
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	Men ...	750	1,066	1,272	705	3,616	3,048	5,638	4,819
	Women...	392	772	1,107	531	3,387	3,074	4,886	4,377
Total		1,142	1,838	2,379	1,236	7,003	6,122	10,524*	9,196
Behar	Men ...	711	1,206	620	591	545	555	1,876	2,352
	Women...	465	837	481	395	399	489	1,345	1,721
Total		1,176	2,043	1,101	986	944	1,044	3,221	4,073
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	2,467	3,393	4,919	4,867	1,502	1,464	8,888	9,724
	Women...	2,259	2,951	4,425	4,046	985	1,189	7,699	8,186
Total		4,726	6,344	9,344	8,913	2,487	2,653	16,557*	17,910
Nepal	Men ...	13	8	90	16	6	6	109	30
	Women...	34	14	26	4	4	3	64	21
Total		47	22	116	20	10	9	173	51
Madras	Men ...	483	762	439	266	209	515	1,131	1,543
	Women...	379	605	312	273	196	473	887	1,351
Total		862	1,367	751	539	405	988	2,018	2,894
Bombay	Men ...	18	3	12	.....	10	11	40	14
	Women...	12	.....	9	.....	6	10	27	10
Total		30	3	21	.....	16	21	67	24
Assam	Men ...	.....	.....	1	18	505	672	506	690
	Women...	.....	.....	.....	.....	58	37	58	37
Total		.....	.....	1	18	563	709	564	727
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	.....	180	.....	461	.....	95	.....	736
	Women...	.....	105	.....	370	.....	49	.....	524
Total		.....	285	.....	831	.....	144	.....	1,260
Orissa	Men ...	8	.....	.....	.....	1	48	9	48
	Women...	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	60	6	60
Total		14	.....	.....	.....	1	108	15	108
Total	Men ...	5,107	7,490	8,476	8,075	6,973	7,242	20,556	22,807
	Women...	4,134	6,023	7,595	6,867	5,654	6,105	17,383	18,995
Grand total...		9,241	13,513	16,071	14,942	12,627	13,347	37,939	41,802

This statement, in which the statistics for the Central Provinces are for the first time separately given, shows greater activity of recruitment from all localities except the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Nepal, and Bombay. It is doubtful, however, if there was any material decrease for the province generally in the case of North-Western Provinces and Oudh, as the figures for the previous year, with which the comparison is made, include importations from the Central Provinces, which are shown separately for the year under report and aggregated 1,260 persons. The increase which took place was fairly shared between Bengal, Chota Nagpur, and Madras, and was especially marked in the case of Chota Nagpur. The considerable falling off which occurred

* Includes figures for Central Provinces also.

under the head of contractors' coolies imported from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and to a less extent from Behar, Chota Nagpur, Nepal, and Madras, is noteworthy, as is also the larger number of coolies imported through the agency of garden sardárs from all localities except Nepal and Bombay, from which places, however, the importations are insignificant. The number of non-Act immigrants increased in all cases except from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Nepal. The total number of importations from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh decreased in the case of every district in the province except Cachar, where it increased from 1,225 in the previous year to 1,695. But in connection with the statistics under this head it has to be remembered that there is reason to fear that coolies from the North-Western Provinces, amongst others, are not unfrequently shown by the recruiting agencies as "junglies," or immigrants from Chota Nagpur, for whom a higher price is obtained. Similarly, Cachar was the only district in the province which showed an increase during the year under report in the number of Act coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh imported through contractors, all other districts showing a more or less considerable decrease under this head. Immigration from Madras shows a further and considerable development, not the least satisfactory feature of which is the tendency shown, pre-eminently in the case of the Surma Valley and to a less extent in the more important labour districts of the Assam Valley, for these importations to fall to a greater extent than during the previous year under the non-Act category. Unfortunately, however, there is reason to fear that the coolies imported from Madras are often of poor physique. The following tables show the relative order in which each locality of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations:

A.—Act Importations.

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1892.
	Garden sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur	6,344	8,913	15,257
(2) Bengal	1,611	2,399	4,010
(3) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,838	1,236	3,074
(4) Behar	2,043	986	3,029

B.—Non-Act Importations.

	Number of coolies imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	6,122
(2) Chota Nagpur	2,653
(3) Bengal	1,549
(4) Behar	1,044

The various localities of recruitment thus stood in the same relative position as during the previous year in regard both to Act and non-Act importations.

Female immigrants.

5. The proportion of women amongst adult immigrants from the chief localities of recruitment is given below :

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Bengal	47·2	45·8	52·3	52·0	51·6	40·1	50 8	48·7
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	34·3	42·0	46·5	42 9	48·3	50·2	46·4	47·6
Behar	39·5	40·9	43·6	40·0	42·2	46·8	41·7	42·2
Chota Nagpur	47·7	46·5	47·3	45·4	39·6	44·8	46·3	45·7
Total	44·7	44·7	47·2	45·9	44·7	48·1	45·8	46·2

There was thus a satisfactory increase in the percentage of women in the case of sardári and non-Act immigrants (except those imported from Bengal, and as regards sardári immigrants from Chota Nagpur). On the other hand, a decrease is shown in the proportion of women amongst contractors' immigrants with reference to each locality

of recruitment. As observed by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, this decrease is to be regretted, amongst other reasons, because the importations of batches without an adequate proportion of women in many cases means large desertions.

6. The following table gives the number of Act coolies imported during the past two years into each district, and shows the average number imported by each sardár :

Contractors' and sardári coolies.

District.	Sardari coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardars.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1892 as compared with 1891.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	Sardári.	Contractors'.
Cachar	1,520	2 031	598	495	2·5	4·1	876	1,048	+ 33·6	+ 19·6
Sylhet	410	717	288	301	1·4	2·3	76	303	+ 74·8	+298·6
Total Surma Valley ...	1,930	2,748	886	796	2·1	3·4	952	1,351	+ 42·3	+ 41·9
Kámrúp	173	275	48	10	3·6	27·5	194	65	+ 58·9	— 66·5
Darrang	1,628	2,453	459	446	3 5	5·5	3,304	2,509	+ 50·6	— 24·0
Nowgong	524	602	220	141	2·3	4·2	493	564	+ 14·8	+ 14·4
Sibságar	2,499	4,189	978	1,187	2·5	3·5	3,990	3,422	+ 67·6	- 14·2
Lakhimpur	2,487	3,246	819	811	3·0	4·0	7,138	7,031	+ 30·5	— 1·5
Total Brahmaputra Valley ...	7,311	10,765	2,524	2,595	2·8	4·1	15,119	13,591	+ 47·2	— 10·1
Grand total	9,241	13,513	3,410	3,391	2·7	3·9	16,071	14,942	+ 46·2	- 7·0

The increase in the number of sardári coolies imported into the province generally was very considerable, and was common to all districts. The number of certificates granted to sardárs showed an increase only in the case of the districts of Sylhet and Sibságar, all other districts showing a decrease. On the other hand, the average recruits per sardár increased in all cases. No explanation is forthcoming in the district reports of these results, which can therefore only be ascribed to greater resort to, and increased activity on the part of, sardárs.

Under the head of contractors' coolies the increase which took place in both the Surma Valley districts is noteworthy; but as regards the Sylhet district, it should be explained that one garden alone (Chándpur in the Habiganj subdivision) imported no less than 126 such coolies out of the total of 303 imported into that district. In all the districts of the Assam Valley, except Nowgong, where, however, the increase was inconsiderable, a more or less considerable decrease took place in the number of labourers recruited through the agency of contractors.

The following figures show the number of sardárs' certificates in the several districts which provided for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement under section 70 of the Act and the proportion of such certificates to the number of certificates to recruit granted to sardárs during the past two years :

District.	Number of certificates which provided for the medical examination of labourers.		Percentage of such certificates to certificates to recruit granted to sardars.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	152	181	25·4	36·5
Sylhet	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...
Darrang	265	314	57·7	70·4
Nowgong	129	116	58·6	82·2
Sibságar	519	743	53·0	62·5
Lakhimpur	265	337	32·3	41·5
Total	1,330	1,691	39·0	49·8

The above figures are satisfactory in so far as all districts in which certificates were granted to garden sardárs show a considerable increase in the percentage of such certificates providing for medical examination as compared with the previous year.

Cost of importation.

7. There is no new information to be recorded under this head.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley.

8. During the year under report 25,421 immigrants started from the recruiting districts for Assam against 20,319 in the previous year, showing an increase of 5,102. The casualties *en route* to Dhubri, that is, the number of coolies who died or absconded, were returned by the depôt managers as 87 (47 died and 40 absconded) against 2 (one died and one absconded) in the previous year, detentions *en route* owing to sickness were returned as 259 against 4 in the preceding year. The increase in the returns under these heads is due to more correct registration by the depôt managers. As regards the route adopted between the recruiting districts and Dhubri, the statistics show that 11,768 coolies (against 12,451 in 1891) came *viâ* Goalundo, and 13,308 (against 7,862 in 1891) *viâ* Kaunia-Jatrapur. The Kaunia route was thus far more largely used than during the previous year. Of the total number of immigrants who arrived at Dhubri, 1,427 (against 1,668 in the previous year) were recruited by licensed sardárs, and the remainder (23,649 against 18,645 in 1891) came up under the free system. Of these latter, 297 (against 109 in the previous year) passed as free immigrants, and of the balance, 15,946 (against 13,900 in the previous year) were put under contract, and 6,632 (against 4,636 in 1891) were passed as dependents attached to them, the number rejected being 774 (against 718 during the previous year). Of the free coolies placed under contract, 2,835 were recruited by licensed sardárs, 8,374 by unlicensed sardárs, and 12,302 by contractors. The figures for the previous year under these heads were 1,543, 4,739, and 12,254 respectively, so that the statistics for the year under report show a considerable development in the system of recruitment by licensed and unlicensed sardárs, especially the latter, while the number of coolies recruited by contractors stood at almost exactly the same figure as in 1891. The Civil Surgeon examined 16,730 immigrants (against 13,648 in the previous year) before they were placed under contract, of whom 15,947 (against 12,930 in 1891) were passed and 783* (against 718 in the previous year) were rejected. Of those rejected, 288 were sent on as dependents and 226 as free by the depôt managers, and 269 (with 243 dependents) were returned to their homes by the depôt managers. The corresponding figures for 1891 were 250, 143, and 314 respectively. No immigrant was returned to his or her home by the Civil Surgeon, whereas eleven immigrants were so returned during the previous year. Of the total number of free coolies rejected, 21 had been recruited by licensed sardárs, 451 by unlicensed sardárs, and 311 by contractors. Comparing the rejections with the total number recruited by each recruiting agency, the figures show that whereas the percentage of rejections to recruits in the case of licensed sardárs was under 1 per cent., in the case of unlicensed sardárs it was 5·3 per cent., and in that of contractors 2·5 per cent. So far, therefore, as coolies put under contract at Dhubri are concerned, it would appear that the best class of coolies was recruited by licensed sardárs and the next best by contractors, while unlicensed sardárs show the worst results in this respect. It is satisfactory to notice that no complaints were received by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára from the managers of tea gardens as to the unfitness of coolies sent up from the Dhubri depôts. The depôts continue to be well reported on by inspecting officers.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

9. In connection with the figures given in this paragraph, it has to be remembered that our sources of information in regard to what happens during the transit of immigrants *en route* from Goalundo to their destinations in the Surma Valley districts are confined (1) to the way-bills issued at Goalundo, and (2) to the statistics given in the registers maintained at the debarkation depôts in the districts in question. These sources of information should provide complete particulars regarding Act coolies, though even in their case the statistics are defective owing to the fact that the way-bills are not regularly returned to the Deputy Commissioners by the garden managers as required by the Assam rules, while the Deputy Commissioners report that the rule framed by the Bengal Government, which requires a copy of all such way-bills to be transmitted by the Embarkation Agent to the labour district officers, is not complied with. The necessary steps are being taken to remedy these defects, and the Chief Commissioner is considering separately whether a penalty should not be prescribed under section 145 of the Act to meet cases in which employers fail to comply with the rules in this respect. But, even if the rules were strictly adhered to, the requisite particulars would only be available in regard to labourers recruited under the Act, and the fact would remain as it is, that we have no separate information in regard to coolies recruited under the free system, in regard to whom way-bills are not required, and who do not pass through the debarkation depôts, but proceed direct to the gardens. It is true that some information under this head is supplied to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet by the local agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company so far as immigrants who travel by steamer are concerned;

* This includes 9 coolies who were rejected out of 90 remaining at the end of 1891.

but it is open to doubt whether this information is of much real value, and in any case it cannot touch the case of the large number of free immigrants who travel by country boat. The following *resumé* of the reports made by the Deputy Commissioners of the Surma Valley districts must be read subject to the above explanation.

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that out of 3,499 immigrants despatched from Goalundo in 274 batches, 25 batches, comprising 387 coolies, were sent direct by steamer, and 249 batches, comprising 3,112 coolies, were forwarded by steamer as far as Fenchuganj, and thence by country boat. The deaths on the journey aggregated 29, against 44 in the previous year, but to these must be added 35 deaths (against 30 in 1891) which occurred in the debarkation depôts. The total number of deaths during transit or at the debarkation depôts thus aggregated 64, against 74 in the previous year. The Deputy Commissioner attributes the smaller number of deaths to the working of the Sanitary Rules issued under the Bengal Act, I of 1889, and observes that the fact of no case of infringement of these rules having been brought to notice serves to show that the rules have been complied with throughout. The general results certainly show some improvement as compared with the previous year, which may have been partially due to the effect of the rules issued under Act I (B.C.) of 1889; but the Chief Commissioner is certainly not prepared to accept the Deputy Commissioner's conclusion that the mere fact of no case of infringement of these rules having been brought to notice indicates that no such infringement has taken place. As regards Sylhet, the figures supplied by the local agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company show that out of 12,455 coolies imported, 7,104, or 57·0 per cent., used the despatch steamers for transit from Goalundo to Fenchuganj, as against 18·6 in 1891 and 43·9 per cent. in 1890. There has thus been a considerable improvement in the extent to which advantage was taken of the steamer service, and this is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the fact that the passage rates charged were reduced by the Steamer Company. Eleven deaths on the steamer were reported from cholera and one from diarrhœa, while two coolies died on their way from the Madna steamer station to the Habiganj depôt. As regards the comforts provided for immigrants during their journey, the Deputy Commissioner writes:

There is a medical officer and a supply of pure drinking-water on board the steamers for the use of the immigrants, who are also supplied with cooked meals.

The hospital assistant at Fenchuganj always inspects the coolies on board the steamers immediately on their arrival, and I have also directed the subdivisional officer of Karimganj to occasionally board the steamers that pass his subdivisional headquarters, and enquire as to the comforts provided for the coolies. Besides the Government depôts, there are also some private depôts at Fenchuganj, where the free coolies recruited by local agents and coming up by steamers are properly housed and provided with food.

Debarkation depôts.

10. The following statement shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year under report:

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts.				Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure.	
				Through want of a guide.	In hospital.	For segregation.	For the night only.		Building.	Establishments, &c.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	2	7,461	3,457	223	256*	429	453	31	298 9 0	5,131 2 7
Sylhet	5	12,455	2,398	.....	27	96	266	...	422 0 6	1,373 1 9
Kámrúp	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Darrang	1	7,439	7,606	4,955	90	...	1,223	...	274 14 3	1,307 14 11
Nowgong ...	1	1,609	1,789†	86	25	100	563	...	.....	358 8 1
Sibságar	3	11,848	12,076‡	5,995	186	743	2,189	...	431 8 6	2,316 14 8
Lakhimpur ...	1	14,077	12,510	2,425	97	...	4,074	...	300 0 0	1,076 10 0
Total	13	54,889	39,836	13,684	681	1,368	8,765	31	1,727 0 3	11,564 4 0
Total for 1891 ...	13	49,206	633,708	9,175	368	858	9,940	...	6,902 0 0	9,508 15 10

* With 73 relatives.

† This includes 180 immigrants for other districts.

‡ This includes 1,352 immigrants for Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur.

The number of depôts remained the same as in the previous year. As usual, only a small proportion of the immigrants into Sylhet passed through the depôts in that district. The number of coolies detained at the depôts owing to the want of a guide is still considerable, and largely increased, as compared with the previous year, in the districts of Darrang and Sibságar. In August 1892 orders were issued by the Chief Commissioner prescribing the levy of a higher charge in cases in which coolies are detained at depôts for a longer period than one day owing to the want of a guide. The effects of these orders will probably be more apparent in the returns of the current year. The figures show a considerable increase in the number of immigrants detained at depôts both in hospital and for purposes of segregation. This result is due to the particularly unhealthy character of the year and the prevalence of cholera. The larger expenditure under the head of depôt establishments is due to the addition of a new hospital with separate establishment in connection with the depôt at Silchar.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

11. The number of labourers and dependents despatched from Dhubri was 24,517 (against 19,552 in the previous year), of whom 62 (against 30 in the previous year) died *en route* to the gardens. Besides these, 11,296 immigrants (against 11,776 in 1891) were shipped at Goalundo for gardens in the Assam Valley, amongst whom 20 deaths occurred between Goalundo and Dhubri, 3 between Dhubri and Gauháti, 15 between Gauháti and Tezpur, and 13 between Tezpur and Dibrugarh, against 11, 13, 8, and 5 respectively during the previous year. The increase in deaths between Goalundo and Dhubri and between Gauháti and Dibrugarh was thus considerable. The total casualties during the journey through the Assam Valley were as follows :

	Number of deaths.		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total.
At Dhubri	59	11	70
On board the steamers	48	14	62
At ports of debarkation—			
Gauháti	...	...	...
Tezpur	42	2	44
Silghat	2	2	4
Kokilamukh	16	4	20
Disangmukh	27	9	36
Nigriting	8	...	8
Mohanamukh	31	3	34
Total	233	45	278
Total for 1891	83	31	114

These figures show a lamentable amount of mortality, which, however, was largely due to the prevalence of cholera. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reports that cholera continued throughout the year except during the months of August, September, and October, and the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang remarks that the disease was of an unusually virulent type. So far as the results at Dhubri are concerned, it is noteworthy that the number of immigrants who arrived at Dhubri with the disease was 44 against 17 in the previous year.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley districts.

12. The following figures given by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Sylhet refer only to coolies imported under the Act who passed through the depôts :

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who left Goalundo.	Deaths.		
			En route.	In hospital.	Total.
Cachar ...	1892	3,457	29	35	64
	1891	3,348	44	30	74
Sylhet ...	1892	2,399	1	10	11
	1891	729	1	...	1

Although in the case of Cachar the mortality has decreased as compared with the previous year, it was nevertheless considerable. Of the total number of deaths, 54 in the case of Cachar and 10 in the case of Sylhet were due to cholera.

Cases of kidnapping, fraudulent recruitment, and enticement.

13. During the year under report a careful watch was, as usual, kept in regard to complaints of fraudulent practices in connection with recruitment, and action was, when necessary, invariably taken. On this subject the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára writes :

Inquiries in connection with the fraudulent recruitment of coolies were made on three accounts, *viz.*, (*a*) on receipt of letters either from the magistrates of the recruiting districts or from the relatives of the missing persons, (*b*) on complaints made by the coolies themselves at the time of registration, and (*c*) when the registering officer suspected any fraud in the recruitment of young women who appeared at Dhubri unaccompanied by any relatives. In 1892, 155 enquiries in all were made, against 95 in the previous year, of which 56 were of the first, 3 of the second, and 96 of the third description. Of the first class, 39 persons were not traced and ten inquiries are pending. Seven persons were traced, of whom one was reported of full age, so the matter was dropped. In the case of four persons their guardians refused to prosecute the abductors. This is possibly due to the fact that their cases were weak. In one case the abductor was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under section 363, Indian Penal Code, but he was acquitted, on appeal, by the Judicial Commissioner of Hazaribagh, as in the opinion of the latter the evidence that the woman was under 16 was insufficient. One case was dropped, as no criminal offence was disclosed. One case, which had been shown pending in my previous year's report, was dropped, as the person came back and went up to Assam.

The three persons complaining before the registering officer were forwarded to the magistrates of the recruiting districts. The guardians of two persons took no measures against the accused, and regarding one the magistrate said that he was of full age, so no further action could be taken in the matter.

Of the 96 persons regarding whom inquiry was made by the registering officer, 28 were traced and 49 were not traced. The cases of 19 persons are still pending. In eight cases it was shown that there was no fraud, as the persons in question came of their own accord. The relatives of four did not take any steps to recover them, as the contracts were apparently executed by persons of full age, and they could not get them cancelled. In 15 cases the guardians took no action. In one case the accused was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. Of three pending enquiries mentioned in last year's report, two persons were not traced in their villages, and one came again to Assam of her own accord.

The following figures relate to complaints during each of the past two years in the several districts except Goálpára :

District.	Complaints.		True cases.		False cases.		Not proved.		Pending.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sylhet	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Darrang	4	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	1
Nowgong	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Sibságar	9	11	1	...	...	2	4	3	4	6
Lakhimpur	29	19	1	1	5	5	15	9	8	4
Total	42	36	3	3	6	8	20	14	13	11

These figures show that for the province generally the number of complaints decreased from 42 in the previous year to 36. True cases stood at the same figure (3) as for 1891. False cases advanced from 6 to 8, and cases not proved and pending fell from 20 and 13 to 14 and 11 respectively.

In Cachar no case of fraudulent recruitment was brought to notice. In Sylhet two cases of fraudulent recruitment were brought forward in connection with two batches of coolies, one for the Satgaon and the other for the Kurmacherra garden in the South Sylhet subdivision. As regards these cases, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

A woman in the first batch made some complaint before the Magistrate of Habiganj (the depôt through which her batch passed), who referred the matter to the subdivisional officer

of South Sylhet, who in his turn made a reference to the Magistrate of Midnapur about the woman. The Magistrate of Midnapur, after local enquiry, ascertained that she was a widow with two children, and led an immoral life, and consequently no particular search was made for her when she was missed. As she has left behind two little children, I considered there was some truth in her statement that she had been enticed away by misrepresentations, and I accordingly directed the subdivisional officer of South Sylhet to send her back to her home at Government expense.

As regards the other batch, reference was made to the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, who reported that the coolies had freely admitted their contracts before him. Probably the coolies changed their minds, having been frightened by what they heard about the gardens they were booked for. No complaint, however, came from their relatives residing in the recruiting districts, so they were sent to serve out their contracts on the gardens for which they were recruited.

In Kámrúp one case of fraudulent recruitment was brought to notice, the particulars of which are thus described by the Deputy Commissioner:

On the 16th September 1892 the native doctor of the steamer *Marwari* reported that a coolie woman, named Barada, shipped from Mr. P. W. Baptist's depôt at Dhubri for the Dekom tea estate in Dibrugarh, complained that she had been fraudulently recruited by one Joiboron Arkati, who had also taken ornaments and money from her. The statements of the woman, of her companions, and of the doctor of the steamer were taken, and the woman was permitted to proceed to Dibrugarh pending further enquiries. Copies of the statements made by the woman were sent to the Deputy Commissioners of Dhubri and of Manbhum, and to the subdivisional officer of Raniganj, for enquiry in their districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Purulia reported that the woman, after being deserted by her husband, had left her father's house with Joiboron, but that she had no ornaments or money with her.' From the enquiries made at Purulia, and from the fact that the woman complained immediately on discovering that the steamer had left Dhubri without Joiboron, I was of opinion that the woman had entered into contract and proceeded on board in the belief that the recruiter Joiboron was to accompany her. I was therefore of opinion that the contract (entered into before Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri) should be cancelled and the woman returned to her country, and reported to the Commissioner for any further enquiry and necessary action at Dibrugarh. The Commissioner has now informed me that the woman has found a new husband on the garden at Dibrugarh and has no wish to return.

In Darrang enquiries were made into three cases (including one pending from the previous year), which are thus described by the Deputy Commissioner:

The Superintendent of Emigration requested me to enquire into the case of an adult woman called Piari, *alias* Rijni. The woman and others of her gang were examined, but it turned out that she had come of her own accord. She had not the smallest desire to have her contract cancelled.

Some Ganjamis, recruited by Mr. Moore of Barjuli, ran away, and warrants issued for their arrest under section 175. The Magistrate of the Ganjam district refused to execute the warrants on the ground that the men (who were recruited by Mr. Moore in person) were not of the coolie class, had been cruelly treated at Barjuli, and had been taken to Assam under a false impression. I made a long and exhaustive enquiry from other members of the gang, and forwarded the proceedings to Ganjam. No action, however, appears to have been taken, though some months have elapsed.

In one case a coolie girl's relatives wrote to me that she was under legal age, though she had given her contract at Dhubri. In this case I cancelled her contract. She was apparently about ten years old.

As observed by the Commissioner, in regard to the case last mentioned, the girl should not have been passed at Dhubri, and further enquiries are being made regarding the circumstances under which this was done.

In Nowgong one case of kidnapping was brought to notice, the following description of which is given by the Deputy Commissioner:

The District Superintendent of Police, Jabalpur, brought to notice that on the 1st October 1891 one Bhapute Mitra, a recruiter, was said to have recruited one Samaiya, son of Ganga, caste Kurmi, aged eighteen years, under false pretences, and after detaining him four days sent him off on the 5th idem to Babu Mathura Krishna Ghosh at Purulia. The recruiter left the district immediately, and after considerable correspondence Babu Mathura Krishna Ghosh had admitted that the lad reached him, and was passed on to Binod Bihari Dutt of Purulia on the 11th November last, who states that the lad was sent on to Salona tea garden in Nowgong on the above date as Sanue, No. 481, age twenty-five. Mr. Logan, through whose depôt the man passed, says that one Sonai passed through his depôt on the 16th November 1891 for the Salona Tea Company. An enquiry was made about the coolie in Salona and all the gardens of the Kondoli division, but he could not be identified in any of the gardens of this district.

In regard to the cases left pending in the Sibságar district from the previous year, one was disposed of as false, the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas having reported that the woman was not a minor, and that she had left her home of her own free

will. In another case enquiry was discontinued, as the two women concerned were found to have absconded. In a third case, relating to 15 coolies of the Missamara garden, enquiry showed that, with the exception of one coolie who had absconded, all had been sent back to Bengal by the manager. In the last case enquiry is still pending in consequence apparently of some misapprehension on the part of the authorities of Manbhum. During the year under report, 11 cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment (against 9 cases in the previous year) were brought forward in the Sibságar district. Of these cases, eight were of the ordinary type, the complaint made being that the women were enticed away from their homes, or otherwise wrongfully induced to come to Assam, with the result that in one case no trace could be obtained of the complainant's home or relatives ; in three others the women, regarding whom enquiries were made at the instance of their relatives in the districts of recruitment, declared their unwillingness to return to their homes, and in one case the contract of the complainant was cancelled by mutual consent, and she was repatriated, the manager having paid her three months' wages. The other cases are still under enquiry, but none of the cases referred to presented any special features, and it is unnecessary to give details regarding them. Of the remaining three cases, one related to the alleged kidnapping of a minor, and resulted in the discharge of the accused by the magistrate. The second case related to a girl four years of age, and the question was whether she was really the child of two immigrants who belonged to a garden in the Golághát subdivision, or whether she had been enticed away from her home. The matter was enquired into, with the result that no reason was found to exist for the suspicion that the girl was not really the child of the immigrants concerned. In the last case a complaint was made by three coolies that they had been unlawfully recruited and had been forced to proceed to Assam against their will. Enquiries are being made into this case in the district of recruitment ; but it is noteworthy that after the matter was enquired into on the garden, the garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon and was visited by the Deputy Commissioner, but on neither occasion was any complaint made.

In the Dibrugarh district, 19 cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment were enquired into, against 29 cases in 1891. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following account of these cases :

Of these 19 cases, 8 referred to cases of single women, 2 of whom could not be traced. Of the remaining 6, the results of 2 cases are not known, as replies to my references to Bengal districts have not been received. Two admitted execution of contracts of their own free will and wanted to remain on the garden. In one case a girl, who complained on arrival at the ghat, absconded before she was sent on to the garden and prosecuted the accused in her country. The police reported the case in C Form, and the magistrate in Bengal did not think any further action necessary. One woman was sent down to Purulia as a witness. The Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, cancelled her contract, as it appeared that she did not execute it of her own free will.

Two cases referred to two batches of women. In one case three women complained, on arrival at the Dibrugarh ghat, that they had been wrongfully recruited. After enquiry the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, reported that he did not think that a criminal case would lie. In another case two married women were alleged to have been brought up under false pretences, but the husbands neither took any legal steps against the persons who enticed them, nor endeavoured to get their wives back.

Six cases referred to the alleged abduction of boys. In four cases the boys were over sixteen years of age ; in one case the boy has been sent down to Bengal, and the result has not yet been communicated. In the remaining case the boy was certified by the civil hospital assistant in charge to be about fourteen years of age. The result of this case has also not yet been communicated by the magistrate in Bengal.

Two cases referred to two men, one of whom absconded from the garden before any enquiry could be made, and the case of the other was filed by the magistrate for want of proof.

One case referred to a batch of five Nepali coolies who complained of alleged fraudulent recruitment. The Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, enquired into the case, and reported that they executed contracts willingly at Dhubri. They were accordingly ordered to work out the terms of their contracts, and nothing has been heard of them since.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur might well have given fuller details than those above quoted, but it is clear that the cases have been sufficiently enquired into, and further action in regard to them is not called for.

The Chief Commissioner is glad again to be able to notice from the report of the Collector of Ganjam on Inland Emigration from that district that no cases of kidnapping were reported during the year 1892, and that no complaints were made of compulsion or misrepresentation having been used in connection with recruitment. "On the other hand," the report goes on to say, "it appears that the emigrants proceeded to Assam very cheerfully."

CHAPTER II.

LABOUR FORCE.

Statistics of the labour force.

14. The table below shows the additions to, and deductions from, the total labour force of the province during the year 1892 :

Labour force remaining at the end of the year 1891 (column 2 of statement)		437,303
Additions—		
Imported by contractors or garden sardárs, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4, and 5 of statement) ...	56,050	
Local labour contracts entered into under sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement)	21,918	
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement)	6,985	
Deserters recaptured (column 9 of statement)...	524	
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement) ...	21,820	
Otherwise obtained (column 11 of statement)	21,163	
Births	11,060	
Total	139,520	
Deductions—		
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement)	5,378	
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement)	61,138	
Deaths (column 18 of statement)	19,250	
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	17,263	
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement) ...	10,395	
Contracts cancelled under sections 111, 140, or 177, Act I of 1882 (column 23 of statement) ...	13	
„ „ „ „ 122 (column 24 of statement) ...	1,647	
„ redeemed „ „ 142 („ 28 „ „) ...	10	
„ dissolved by mutual consent, („ 29 „ „) ...	82	
Total	115,176	
Net increase during the year		24,344
Grand total at the close of the year		461,647

The above figures show that the total of the labour force in the province at the close of the year under report was 461,647, or 5·5 per cent. in excess of the figures at the close of the previous year. This result was mainly due to the larger importations made during the year 1892.

Mean strength of the labour force.

15. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning and end of each of the last three years and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1892 :

Class of labourers.	1st January 1890.	1st January 1891.	1st January 1892.	1st July 1892.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1892.	31st December 1892.	Mean strength for the second half-year of 1892.
Act adults	97,270	101,904	111,639	118,411	115,025	117,536	117,973
Non-Act ... Adults ...	142,424	147,453	158,146	171,769	164,957	167,599	169,684
Non-Act ... Children ...	150,774	158,783	167,518	175,779	171,648	176,512	176,146
Total	390,468	408,140	437,303	465,959	451,631	461,647	463,803

16. The details of the labour force of each district, showing the variations of strength during the year 1892, are given below :

District figures of the labour force.

District.	1st January 1892.	31st December 1892.	Percentage of total provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	102,324	104,359	22·6	+ 2,035	+1·9
Sylhet	90,653	97,102	21·0	+ 6,449	+7·1
Total Surma Valley	192,977	201,461	43·6	+ 8,484	+4·4
Kámrúp	3,611	3,414	·7	— 197	—5·4
Darrang	47,314	51,572	11·2	+ 4,258	+9·0
Nowgong	16,421	16,349	3·5	— 72	— ·4
Sibságar	96,426	101,766	22·1	+ 5,340	+5·5
Lakhimpur	80,554	87,085	18·9	+ 6,531	+8·1
Total Assam Valley	244,326	260,186	56·4	+15,860	+6·5
Grand total	437,303	461,647	100·0	+24,344	+5·5

Although the above figures show a clear increase of 5·5 per cent. in the province as a whole, the percentage of increase was not so great as it was in 1891 as compared with 1890, when the increase represented 7·1 per cent. In the Surma Valley the percentage of increase fell from 5·7 in the previous year to 4·4, and in the Assam Valley from 8·3 to 6·5.

17. The nationality and sex of the adult labour force at the beginning and end of the year under report are shown in the following table :

Nationality and sex of the adult labour force.

Nationality.	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal	Men ...	9,024	9,270	20,604	21,137	29,628	30,407	21·1
	Women ...	8,777	9,376	19,886	20,352	28,663	29,728	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	Men ...	4,851	5,377	16,067	16,860	20,918	22,237	15·1
	Women ...	3,553	4,080	15,251	16,644	18,804	20,724	
Behar	Men ...	3,840	4,840	6,292	6,366	10,132	11,206	7·2
	Women ...	2,983	3,523	5,519	5,737	8,502	9,260	
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	36,276	37,298	32,764	34,889	69,040	72,187	48·2
	Women ...	32,470	32,959	29,624	32,249	62,094	65,208	
Nepal	Men ...	74	60	137	152	211	212	0·1
	Women ...	18	28	99	100	117	128	
Madras	Men ...	2,432	2,839	1,395	2,156	3,827	4,995	3·4
	Women ...	2,155	2,488	1,385	2,132	3,540	4,620	
Bombay ...	Men ...	39	27	168	195	207	222	0·1
	Women ...	35	26	159	166	194	192	
Assam ...	Men ...	2,714	2,156	6,120	5,618	8,834	7,774	3·9
	Women ...	1,232	1,372	1,927	1,875	3,159	3,247	
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	688	1,005	322	365	1,010	1,370	0·9
	Women ...	447	787	329	383	776	1,170	
Orissa	Men ...	19	15	54	115	73	130	.....
	Women ...	12	10	44	108	56	118	
Total	Men ...	59,957	62,887	83,923	87,853	143,880	150,740	.....
	Women ...	51,682	54,649	74,223	79,746	125,905	134,395	
Grand total ...	.....	111,639	117,536	158,146	167,599	269,785	285,135	.....

N.B.—The differences between the entries in columns 3, 5, and 7 and those in columns 4, 6, and 8 of the statement, embodied in paragraph 16 of the Report for 1891 are due to causes explained at foot of the statement at the end of this report.

The proportion of Act, non-Act, and all coolies belonging to each nationality is shown below :

	1891.	1892.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act. labourers.	Total.
Bengál	21·8	15·86	24 75	21·1
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	14·9	8·05	20·00	15·1
Behar	7·0	7·12	7·22	7·2
Chota Nagpur	49·1	59·78	40 06	48·2
Nepal	0·1	·07	·15	0·1
Madras	2·8	4·53	2·56	3·4
Bombay	0·2	·04	·21	0 1
Assam	4·1	3·00	4·47	3 9
Central Provinces	.....	1·53	·45	0·9
Orissa	.....	·02	·13	.....
Total	100·	100·	100·	100·0

It will be seen from the above statement that the general results closely correspond with those of the preceding year.

Mean strength of labour force in each district.

18. The mean strength of the labour force in each district for each half-year and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertions are calculated on these figures.

District.	Act.			Non-Act.						Total annual strength.		
				Adults.			Children.					
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar ..	7,204	7,417	7,310	51,474	52,211	51,842	45,017	45,085	45,051	103,696	104,713	104,204
Sylhet ..	7,426	6,962	7,194	49,581	51,915	50,748	37,669	39,015	38,337	94,668	97,892	96,280
Kámrúp ..	932	974	953	1,553	1,450	1,501	1,272	1,235	1,253	3,757	3,659	3,708
Darrang ..	23,256	24,257	23,756	11,586	11,893	11,740	14,707	15,529	15,118	49,549	51,679	50,614
Nowgong ..	3,907	4,063	3,985	7,014	6,737	6,875	5,943	6,028	5,985	16,865	16,829	16,847
Sibságar ..	38,746	39,010	38,878	21,934	22,953	22,444	38,447	39,834	39,140	99,128	101,798	100,463
Lakhimpur ..	33,552	35,289	34,420	21,814	22,523	22,168	28,600	29,420	29,010	83,967	87,232	85,599
Tota ..	115,025	117,973	116,499	164,957	169,684	167,320	171,648	176,146	173,897	451,631	463,803	457,717

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

Number of contracts made.

19. The number of contracts executed in 1892 as compared with 1891 is shown below :

	1891.	1892.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Under section 111 of the Act	18,256	21,050	+15·3
„ „ 112 „ „	1,057	862	—18·4
Dhubri contracts	12,910	15,946	+19·6
In recruiting districts	3,906	5,021	+28·5
Total	36,129	42,879	+18·6

20. The following table shows the sex and nationality of the labourers who entered into local contracts, district by district :

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality.										Total of columns 3 and 4.
				Bengal.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Behar.	Chota Nagpur.	Nepal.	Madras.	Bombay.	Assam.	Central Provinces.	Orissa.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar ..	Men	567	213	99	259	151	141	..	110	..	....	20	..	780
	Women	358	208	71	162	134	110	..	73	..	1	15	..	566
	Total of 1892 ..	925	421	170	421	285	251	..	183	..	1	35	..	1,346
	„ „ *1891* ..	*900*	*173*	*269*	*371*	*137*	*266*	..	*10*	*12*	*8*	..	..	*1,073*
Sylhet ..	Men	1,663	2	254	436	333	338	1	262	..	1	31	7	1,665
	Women	1,373	....	253	356	237	276	..	231	..	3	16	1	1,373
	Total of 1892 ..	3,036	2	507	794	570	614	1	493	..	4	47	8	3,038
	„ „ *1891* ..	*2,140*	*2*	*305*	*688*	*319*	*343*	..	*484*	*1*	*1*	..	*1*	*2,142*
Kámrúp ..	Men	38	1	14	....	4	11	1	..	..	9	..	..	39
	Women	14	....	5	....	1	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	14
	Total of 1892 ..	52	1	19	....	5	17	1	..	..	11	..	..	53
	„ „ *1891* ..	*20*	*1*	*3*	....	....	*2*	..	..	..	*16*	..	..	*21*
Darrang ..	Men	2,705	85	259	90	73	1,336	1	7	..	1,015	9	..	2,790
	Women	1,511	4	224	84	41	786	1	13	..	366	..	..	1,515
	Total of 1892 ..	4,216	89	483	174	114	2,122	2	20	..	1,381	9	..	4,305
	„ *1891* ..	*3,814*	*91*	*510*	*119*	*123*	*1,509*	..	*16*	..	*1,628*	..	..	*3,905*
Nowgong ..	Men	143	13	40	2	14	88	..	..	..	12	..	..	156
	Women	88	2	33	1	4	48	..	..	..	4	..	..	90
	Total of 1892 ..	231	15	73	3	18	136	..	..	..	16	..	..	246
	„ „ *1891* ..	*299*	*10*	*54*	....	*9*	*244*	..	..	..	*2*	..	..	*309*
Sibságar ..	Men	4,822	180	722	226	613	2,880	..	111	..	439	11	..	5,002
	Women	3,726	109	750	153	420	2,262	3	134	2	102	9	..	3,835
	Total of 1892 ..	8,548	289	1,472	379	1,033	5,142	3	245	2	541	20	5	8,837
	„ „ *1891* ..	*7,988*	*557*	*1,661*	*273*	*842*	*4,851*	*7*	*72*	*12*	*827*	..	..	*8,545*
Lakhimpur ..	Men	2,348	34	212	63	72	1,968	..	22	..	40	6	..	2,382
	Women	1,694	17	174	33	31	1,435	..	14	..	16	8	..	1,711
	Total of 1892 ..	4,042	51	386	96	103	3,403	..	36	..	56	13	...	4,093
	„ „ *1891* ..	*3,095*	*223*	*463*	*40*	*93*	*2,685*	*1*	*14*	..	*22*	..	..	*3,318*
	Grand total of 1892 ..	21,050	868	3,110	1,867	2,128	11,685	7	977	2	2,010	124	8	21,918
	„ „ „ *1891* ..	*18,256*	*1,057*	*3,265*	*1,491*	*1,523*	9,990	*8*	*596*	*25*	*2,504*	..	*1*	*19,313*

In all districts except Nowgong, an increase took place in the extent to which resort was had to section 111 of the Act, and the increase was specially marked in the Sylhet district. As regards section 112, the noteworthy points in the above statement are the considerable increase which took place, as compared with the previous year, in the number of contracts made under that section in the Cachar district (from 173 to 421) and the large falling off in the districts of Sibságar (from 557 to 289) and Lakhimpur (from 223 to 51). The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar explains that this result was due to the large number of Madras immigrants who came up as free,

but on arrival were put under contract under section 112. The large increase, which took place in the number of local contracts executed in the Sylhet district, is due to the results in the South Sylhet subdivision, where 2,771 of the 3,036 contracts of this class were executed. This result is attributed by the subdivisional officer to the fact that managers thought it necessary to resort to Act-I agreements, there being a large demand for local labour in connection with the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. No particular explanation can be given of the decrease which took place in Sibságar and Lakhimpur in the number of contracts executed under section 112 of the Act.

Details of local contracts.

21. The following table gives details of local contracts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the terms of the contracts. This table does not include contracts executed at Dhubri, figures relating to which are given at the close of the paragraph.

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			New.	Time-expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two and a half years.	3	4	Under five years.	5
Cachar ,, ...	925	421	801	544	..	1	..	95	371	..	473	11	..	396
Sylhet ,, ...	3,036	2	1,695	1,343	..	..	..	997	334*	1†	1,694	..	..	12
Kámrúp ,, ...	52	1	..	42	.	11	22	17	4	2	4	..	..	4
Darrang ,, ..	4,216	89	57	2,427	..	1,821	31	1,683	1,341	23	783	20	..	424
Nowgong ,, ,,	231	15	36	207	3	..	3	157	20	..	55	9	..	2
Sibságar	8,540	289	2,738	5,581	..	510	37	2,100	3,066	61	3,262	125	97	81
Lakhimpur	4,042	51	88	3,948	..	57	24	2,484	937	..	410	60	..	178
Total of 1892 .. ,,	21,042‡	868	5,415	14,092	3	2,400	117	7,533	6,073	87	6,681	225	97	1,097
,, ,, *1891*	*18,437*	*1,057*	*4,321*	*12,977*	*61*	*2,155*	*178*	*6,927*	*4,915*	*43*	*5,833*	*114*	*111*	*1,373*

These figures show a more or less considerable increase in the number of new, time-expired, and local labourers who entered into local contracts. Under the head of duration of contracts it will be seen that a decrease occurred in the number of contracts for five years, and this was common to all districts except Cachar and Kámrúp. Speaking generally, it may be said that contracts for periods from three to five years are entered into by newly-recruited coolies, while time-expired labourers, when they renew their contracts, do so, as a rule, for shorter terms.

As regards the contracts executed at Dhubri, the figures for 1891 and 1892 stand thus :

Year.	Three-year contracts.			Five-year contracts.			Total contracts.		
	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents	Total.
1891	2,348	1,144	3,492	10,562	3,549	14,111	12,910	4,693	17,603
1892	1,536	1,196	2,732	14,410	5,436	19,846	15,946	6,632	22,578

In paragraph 20 of last year's report it was said that the proportion of five-year contracts executed at Dhubri had recently shown signs of decreasing. During the year under review, however, the percentage of such contracts (87·9), though smaller than in 1889 (98·3) and previous years, is considerably larger than it was for either of the years 1890 (78·8) or 1891 (81·8).

* This includes 38 contracts for more than one year and less than two.

† Under three years.

‡ The difference between this entry and that in column 3 of the table in paragraph 20 showing nationality of labourers entering into local contracts and in column 6 of the statement at the end of the report is in the case of Sibságar, and is attributed to the fact that 8 contracts executed during the latter part of December and sent to the Emigration Office after the end of the month are included in the managers' returns.

22. The following table shows the extent to which contracts executed locally were verified during the year :

Verification of contracts.

1	2				3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
District.	Number and year of contracts under section 111 (excluding those executed at Dhubri) remaining unverified at beginning of the year under report.				Number of contracts executed during the year under section 111.	Total of columns 2 and 3.	Number of such contracts executed after the last inspection where the garden has been inspected during the year under report.	Total number of contracts for verification (column 4, *minus* column 5).	Number of contracts susceptible of verification (column 6, *minus* total of column 13).	Number of contracts of the year under report susceptible of verification, column 3— column 5, *minus* total of sub-column for year under report in column 13.	Number and year of contract. (a) Verified.				
	1889.	1890.	1891.	Total.							1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	Total.
Cachar	..	30	271	301	925	1,226	311	915	789	506	..	25	258	506	789
Sylhet	..	33	1,121	1,154	3,036	4,190	701	3,489	2,935	2,132	..	..	780	2,081	2,861
Kámrúp	..	..	10	10	52	62	5	57	38	38	..	..	..	38	38
Darrang	..	..	1,651	1,651	4,216	5,867	1,274	4,593	4,254	2,785	..	..	1,442	2,714	4,156
Nowgong	..	..	20	20	231	251	84	167	127	107	..	..	20	107	127
Sibságar	..	73	2,351	2,424	8,540	10,964	3,813	7,151	5,470	4,227	..	73	1,144	4,181	5,398
Lakhimpur	..	..	406	406	4,042	4,448	1,353	3,095	2,839	2,480	..	..	359	2,478	2,837
Total of 1892	..	136	5,830	5,966	21,012*	27,008	7,541	19,467	16,452	12,275	..	98	4,003	12,105	16,206
„ „ *1891*	*758†*	*481*	*7,070*	*7,828*	*18,437*	*26,265*	*5,441*	*20,824*	*18,672*	*12,419*	*332‡*	*5,375*	*12,050*	....	*17,757*

District.	9					10	11	12	13													
	Number and year of contract—*contd.* (b) Cancelled.					Total (of totals under column 9).	Percentage of contracts verified or cancelled (total of column 10 on total of column 7).	Percentage of contracts of year under report, verified or cancelled (total of sub-columns for year under report in column 9 on total of column 8).	Remaining unverified (of those incapable of verification) on account of													
									Expiry of the term of contract.			Death or desertion of the labourer.			Absence of the labourer on the date of inspection on recruiting work.			Sickness.			Total.		
	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	Total.				Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.	Of previous years.	Of 1892.	Total.
Cachar	..	..	..	..	..	789	100·	100·	13	..	13	3	31	34	2	65	67	..	12	12	18	108	126
Sylhet	..	..	23	51	74	2,935	100·	100·	137	..	137	179	153	332	30	35	65	5	15	20	351	203	554
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	38	100·	100·	10	..	10	..	1	1	..	5	5	..	3	3	10	9	19
Darrang	..	..	..	7	7	4,163	97·8	97·7	127	..	127	15	44	59	27	45	72	13	68	81	182	157	339
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	127	100·	100·	..	38	38	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	40	40
Sibságar	..	..	..	..	..	5,398	98·6	98·9	885	..	885	143	178	321	..	139	139	153	183	336	1,181	500	1,681
Lakhimpur	..	..	..	2	2	2,839	100·	100·	41	..	41	3	10	13	2	188‡	190	1	11	12	47	209	256
Total of 1892 ..	..	..	23	60	83	16,289	99·0	99·1	1,213	38	1,251	343	418	761	61	478	539	172	292	464	1,789	1,226	3,015
„ „ *1891* ..	..	*9*	*48*	..	*57*	*17,814*	*95·4*	*97·4*	*918*	*87*	*1,005*	*293*	*232*	*525*	*378*	*234*	*612*	*2*	*8*	*10*	*1,591*	*561*	*2,152*

The percentages entered in columns 11 and 12 of the above statement show that improvement has again taken place in the work of verification of local contracts, and the only districts in which contracts susceptible of verification are reported as not having been verified are Darrang and Sibságar. The Chief Commissioner notices that the figures entered in column 13 of the above statement under the head of contracts remaining unverified at the close of the year under report on account of sickness are enormously in excess of those entered under the same head for the previous year, especially in the case of the Sibságar district where 336 contracts are so entered, against none in the previous year and against a total of 464 for the whole province. Enquiry will be made into this matter, and, if necessary, further instructions will be issued for the guidance of the officers concerned as to the system which should be adopted in entering figures under this head.

* See explanation at foot of statement showing details of local contracts.
† These figures include the figures of 1888 (277 and 126) respectively.
‡ Includes 177 coolies whose contracts were not verified, as the agreements were not produced by the employers at the time of inspection.

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

23. The following table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such contracts reported by managers, and the number of contracts cancelled or which terminated in other ways :

District.	Number shown in garden returns as time-expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled by Inspector under 111.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, section 120.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 129.	Number cancelled by magistrate under 140.	Number redeemed under 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar	2,295	2,293	.....	.....	37	.....	.....	.....	3
Sylhet	3,716	3,716	4	.....	103	.....	.....	.....	17
Kámrúp	66	66	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	4,780	4,780	7	.....	142	.....	.....	1	27
Nowgong	534	534	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	12
Sibságar	12.420	10,557	.....	.....	188	.....	.....	6	4
Lakhimpur	6,396	6,396	2	.....	1,074	.....	.....	3	19
Total of 1892	30,207	28,342	13	.....	1,647	.....	.....	10	82
„ „ *1891*	*24,757*	*22,558*	*18*	.....	*643*	.....	.....	*6*	*138*

Taking the province as a whole, there was some improvement in the extent to which managers complied, during the year under report, with the provisions of section 141 of the Act, which make it obligatory on employers to give to the Inspectors notice in writing of the determination of labour contracts within one month from the date of such determination. But the results in Sibságar, where employers failed to comply with the requirements of the law in no less than 1,863 cases, are most unsatisfactory. In regard to this the Deputy Commissioner writes :

With a view to instituting prosecutions in some cases, if necessary, letters were written to the managers of some of the principal gardens making default in this respect, calling their attention to the provisions of the law. These gardens have since submitted the reports required. Similar warnings will be addressed to other gardens defaulting.

The action taken by Mr. Monahan is wholly insufficient. Prosecutions should clearly have been undertaken; and if this were done in one or two of the worst cases, there is little doubt that the remissness at present shown would at once disappear. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, will be requested to see that prompt action is taken in accordance with these instructions. The figures for the cancelment of contracts by Inspectors for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act show an enormous increase as compared with the previous year, while a smaller number of contracts have been dissolved by mutual consent. The statistics under these two heads are—

District.	Contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act.		Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	...	37	38	3
Sylhet	10	103	2	17
Kámrúp	1	3	2	...
Darrang	23	142	35	27
Nowgong	51	100	5	12
Sibságar	144	188	9	4
Lakhimpur	414	1,074	47	19
Total	643	1,647	138	82

In regard to the increase in the case of contracts cancelled under section 122, the Deputy Commissioners write as follows :

Deputy Commissioner of Cachar—

Of the 37 contracts cancelled under the provisions of section 122, 36 were cancelled at the Sadr subdivision, and 1 in Hailákándi. Of these, 7 were brought up by contractors, and the remaining 30 by garden sardárs. These were a lot of peculiarly debilitated and feeble type of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behar, and again suffering from malarial cachexia, who were rejected by the Civil Surgeon and were released.

Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet—

Most of the labourers, whose contracts were cancelled for permanent unfitness, were from Ganjam and Madras serving on the gardens of the South Sylhet Company. The garden medical

Deputy Commissioner of Darrang—

There was a large increase in the number of contracts cancelled under section 122. This was entirely due to the wretched physical condition of recent immigrants.

Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur—

During the year under report an unusually large number of contracts was cancelled under section 122 (1,074 against 414 of 1891). Hilika, Margherita Tea Estate, Talup, Sukerating, Dum Duma, Bishakupi, Hatiali, Tiphuk, and Rowmari gardens make free use of this section. The cause of this large increase is due to there being many European doctors who insist on the contracts of coolies of bad physique being cancelled under section 122. Of the 1,074 coolies whose contracts were cancelled under this section, as many as 678 coolies were sent back to their country, 16 died, and 11 absconded from the charitable dispensary. The rest remained on the garden. It is not known how many of those who preferred to remain on the garden are still living.

The other Deputy Commissioners do not make any particular remarks; but it seems clear that the provisions of section 122 have been more freely used in consequence of the bad physique of the coolies imported, and because the fact is becoming more widely recognised that the sooner a garden gets rid of labourers of poor physique, the better it is for the interests of the garden in many ways. It is presumed that in all these cases certificates were given by the Inspectors concerned as required by section 122 of the Act. No remarks are called for in regard to the number of contracts cancelled by mutual consent except in the Lakhimpur district, where the cancelments had reference to coolies who came up for the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, but on arrival were rejected by the Company's medical officer. As these coolies agreed to work on the Mukla Saw-mills and Rajabheta Tea Estate, their agreements with the Assam Railways and Trading Company were allowed to be dissolved by mutual consent.

The extent to which the second paragraph of section 121 and section 170 of Act I of 1882 are acted upon.

24. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that no use was made during the year of the second paragraph of section 121 of the Act, and that, as regards section 170, although 9 managers sent in lists of absentees, in no case was the Inspector asked to endorse the days of absence on the contracts. Mr. Herald adds :

In fact, it is only in cases when the absences amount to a considerable number of days that they report this. As a rule, however, they do not take notice of these absences.

In Sylhet no use was made either of section 121 or of section 170 during the year under report, and the same was the case in Kámrúp. In Darrang no use was made of section 121, and although twelve managers submitted lists of absentees under section 170, only in one case was the Inspector asked to endorse days of absence. The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong writes as follows :

As reported in last year, the coolies, when sick, receive diet or subsistence allowance according to the custom prevailing on the gardens. Days of sickness are, as a rule, not endorsed on their agreements in this district, as this procedure is likely to create ill-feeling between the coolies and the employer.

Some gardens continue to send in monthly lists of *khatia* days. When the Inspector goes to the gardens, he examines the lists, and, after the necessary enquiries, endorses the absent days on the agreements. I have only had this list brought forward on one garden in the district, and even in this case the manager did not press to have the days added.

In Sibságar the second paragraph of section 121 was not used by employers. Forty-nine employers sent in lists of absentees under section 170, and the Deputy Commissioner made endorsements in 56 cases on four gardens. In Lakhimpur no case occurred under section 121; and although 16 gardens sent in regularly lists of absentees, in no case was endorsement of absence on the contracts insisted upon. These results do not call for any particular remark.

Repatriation of labourers.

25. The following figures give certain particulars regarding the repatriation of labourers during each of the past two years :

District.	Number of contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122.		Number of coolies repatriated.		Number of coolies who will be repatriated when a sardár is available to accompany them.		Number of coolies who voluntarily remained on the garden or in the district.		Number of coolies who died.		Number of coolies who absconded.		Number of coolies sent to the Lunatic Asylum.		Amount paid by Government over and above the three months' wages paid by employers.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891	1892.	1891	1892.	1891.	1892.
															Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	..	37	..	22	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	26 8 0
Sylhet	10	103	5	73	..	5	5	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	64 11 4	569 13 9
Kámrúp	1	3	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Darrang	23	142	21	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	....	....
Nowgong	51	100	29	64	..	..	21	34	1	2	..	..	..	..	....	....
Sibságar	144	188	127	153	..	..	14	34	2	..	..	1	1		178 1 9	102 11 9
Lakhimpur	414	1,074	260	678	..	..	108	369	35	16	9	11	2	..	1,026 9 0	2,073 15 6
Total	643	1,647	442	1,145	1	5	148	467	38	18	11	11	3	1	1,269 6 1	2,773 1 0

It will thus be seen that the number of labourers sent back to their homes was larger in every district than during the previous year—a result which was of course due

to the larger number of contracts cancelled. In every case where a labourer, whose contract was cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act, returned to his home, the usual three months' wages were paid by the employers, the difference required to meet the actual expenses being borne by public funds. The figures given in the last column of the above statement, which show the amounts paid by Government, are not altogether clear ; and it is not understood why no such payments were made either in Darrang or in Nowgong, while such a large sum as Rs. 569 was paid in Sylhet in regard to a comparatively small number of coolies. Further enquiries will be made into these points, but of course it is necessarily the case that the payments made by Government to meet the difference between the three months' wages and the actual expenses of repatriation vary according to the remoteness of the district from which repatriation is carried out and of the destinations to which the labourers have to be sent.

Wages.

26. The following two statements give particulars of the wages earned by Act labourers and non-Act coolies, including children. They are based on figures obtained on the occasion of inspections, and in the second table the average wages are given both in the manufacturing and non-manufacturing seasons.

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar	Act	Men	4 7 9
		Women	3 3 1
	Non-Act	Men	4 13 2
		Women	3 8 6
		Children	1 7 9
North Sylhet	Act	Men	4 1 2
		Women	2 13 5
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 9
		Women	3 3 6
		Children	1 13 10
South Sylhet	Act	Men	3 15 2
		Women	3 3 9
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 10
		Women	3 4 7
		Children	1 11 4
Karimganj	Act	Men	5 3 5
		Women	3 1 11
	Non-Act	Men	4 9 1
		Women	3 8 7
		Children	2 5 5
Habiganj	Act	Men	2 12 2
		Women	2 6 6
	Non-Act	Men	3 11 7
		Women	3 3 10
		Children	1 7 6
Kámrúp	Act	Men	4 8 10
		Women	3 9 5
	Non-Act	Men	4 13 2
		Women	3 12 1
		Children	2 7 11
Tezpur	Act	Men	4 13 5
		Women	3 14 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 12 7
		Women	3 13 4
		Children	2 7 0
Mangaldai	Act	Men	5 12 7
		Women	4 4 3
	Non-Act	Men	7 6 6
		Women	4 0 9
		Children	2 2 11
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 15 3
		Women	4 7 7
	Non-Act	Men	5 9 6
		Women	5 3 4
		Children	2 13 10
Sibságar	Act	Men	5 3 3
		Women	3 7 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 14 0
		Women	3 15 1
		Children	2 3 10
Lakhimpur	Act	Men	4 15 6
		Women	4 0 6
	Non-Act	Men	6 7 0
		Women	5 9 3
		Children	2 13 0

			Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	Act	Men	4 2 3	4 11 7
		Women	2 11 9	3 7 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 10 5	5 7 6
		Women	3 3 8	3 14 9
		Children	1 2 6	2 5 7
North Sylhet*	Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
	Non-Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
		Children	.....	.....
South Sylhet	Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
	Non-Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
		Children	.....	.....
Karimganj...	Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
	Non-Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
		Children	.....	.....
Habiganj ...	Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
	Non-Act	Men	.....	.....
		Women	.....	.....
		Children	.....	.....
Kámrúp ...	Act	Men	4 1 3	5 0 5
		Women	3 4 2	3 14 9
	Non-Act	Men	4 7 8	5 2 9
		Women	3 10 11	3 13 3
		Children	2 10 2	2 5 8
Tezpur ...	Act	Men	4 11 6	4 15 5
		Women	3 8 9	4 3 4
	Non-Act	Men	5 8 0	6 0 4
		Women	3 7 4	4 3 4
		Children	2 5 9	2 8 3
Mangaldai	Act	Men	5 4 9	6 4 6
		Women	3 8 0	5 0 6
	Non-Act	Men	5 2 0	6 2 2
		Women	3 1 1	5 0 0
		Children	1 14 9	2 7 2
Nowgong...	Act	Men	4 3 11	5 6 7
		Women	3 4 2	5 11 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 15 9	6 3 3
		Women	3 13 7	6 9 2
		Children	2 6 5	3 5 3
Sibságar ...	Act	Men	4 3 2	6 3 5
		Women	3 3 8	3 10 5
	Non-Act	Men	5 4 2	6 7 11
		Women	3 2 0	4 12 2
		Children	2 2 7	2 5 1
Lakhimpur.	Act	Men	4 3 0	5 15 0
		Women	3 10 0	5 2 6
	Non-Act	Men	5 13 9	7 3 0
		Women	4 5 3	6 1 9
		Children	2 13 0	3 1 1

In connection with the low rate of wages shown in some cases, it must of course be remembered that labourers supplement their income by the proceeds derived from the cultivation of paddy and other crops, by hiring out their cattle, and also by themselves working for hire for neighbouring villagers during the cold season, when the garden work is slack. They also do *ticca* work on the gardens for which they are paid extra wages in cash. In many cases, moreover, the rate of wages is affected by periods of voluntary absence from work and by other similar causes.

* Information not given.

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES, INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

Offences committed by tea garden population.

27. The following figures show the offences committed by the tea garden population during each of the past two years under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882 respectively (excluding desertions, which are separately dealt with) :

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882. Section 151, garden sardár failing to report himself.		Section 152, garden sardár failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employers arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183, enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.		Total.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar ..	71	66	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	9	..	..	7	9
Sylhet ..	12	11	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	4	..	..	11	7
Kámrúp ..	4	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Darrang ..	2	16	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	..	..	42	56
Nowgong ..	2	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	6	5
Sibságar ..	37	27	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	14	..	..	..	..	1	2	13	8	..	..	21	27
Lakhimpur ..	6	9	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	10	..	2	..	..	..	..	9	5	..	..	40	24
Total ..	134	134	18	15	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	67	67	..	2	..	..	1	2	41	39	..	..	127	129

The above figures show that the figures under both Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882 closely correspond with those of the previous year. Under the former Act the number of offences (134) was exactly the same as during 1891, and in the case of the latter it increased from 127 to 129 cases. The variations shown in the several districts do not call for remark.

The following table shows the punishments inflicted for offences under Act XIII of 1859 during each of the past two years :

District.	Number of coolies convicted.		Number of coolies who were ordered to perform their contracts.		Number punished with imprisonment for: Five days.		One week.		Two weeks.		Twenty days.		One month.		Cases withdrawn.		Number of coolies ordered to pay their advances or pay compensation.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar ..	71	66	65	58	..	..	4	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	1
Sylhet ..	12	11	9	10	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Kámrúp ..	4	4	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	....	....
Darrang ..	2	16	2	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Nowgong ..	2	1	1	.....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....	....
Sibságar ..	37	27	25	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	11	9
Lakhimpur ..	6	9	6	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	....
Total ..	134	134	111	111	1	..	4	4	5	4	1	.	1	2	..	3	11	10

It will thus be seen that in the very large majority of cases, coolies were merely ordered to perform their contracts. In cases where sentences of imprisonment were passed, there is no reason to suppose that the punishment inflicted was in any case unduly severe.

As regards Act I of 1882, the results do not call for detailed remarks either in regard to the number of offences, the punishments inflicted, or the nature of the offences committed, except that in one case in the Sibságar district it was found necessary to fine an employer for neglect to provide hospital accommodation. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following particulars of this case :

One manager, Mr. Congdon, of Dholi tea estate in the Jorhát subdivision, was fined Rs. 300 under section 168 of Act I of 1882 for neglecting to provide hospital accommodation and to employ a qualified medical man on a small garden, named Nagajanka, belonging to the same concern at which 60 Act coolies were employed. Finding at inspection that there was no medical officer engaged for

the garden and that no hospital and no medical stores were kept on the estate, Lieutenant Gurdon, Inspector of Labourers, wrote to Mr. Congdon that unless he complied with the law, he would be prosecuted. After two months Lieutenant Gurdon again inspected the garden, but found that his orders had not been carried out. It was found that by way of a hospital a *kacha* building had been raised, the floor of which was damp, consisting of mud recently thrown up to a height of from 6 inches to 9 inches. The building was neither well-raised, ventilated, nor lighted, and in no way fulfilled the requirements of rule 125. No qualified medical officer had been engaged for the garden, and medicines and instruments had not been supplied as prescribed by the schedule. Mr. Congdon was then prosecuted, and fined by me as above.

The manager above mentioned, Mr. Congdon, has gained notoriety for himself during the year in another case, a description of which will be found in paragraph 53 below.

The following statement shows the offences against the criminal law committed during each of the past two years by the population of tea gardens :

District.	Penal Code.																						
	Adultery.	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit culpable homicide.	Murder.	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass.	Lurking house trespass.	House trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Criminal misappropriation.	Criminal breach of trust.	Laying false complaint.
Cachar	..	5	13	..	1	..	..	1	..	23	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
Sylhet	..	22	..	..	1	2	5	2	3	16	7	2	..	2	..	16	..	..	5	..	3	..
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	..	..	..	..	2	4*	1	1	29	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3†	..	..	..
Nowgong	..	5	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	7	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sibságar	..	3	27	1	..	3	11	6	1	58	..	3	2	8	1	12	..	1	..	..	5	2
Lakhimpur	..	30	12	..	..	3	29	4	5	32	..	..	16	..	9	15	1	..	1‡	..	1	1
Total of 1892	..	65	52	1	2	10	51	15	11	165	10	8	18	10	10	45	1	3	10	..	9	4
„ „ 1891	1	47	106	2	2	7	66	27	22	160	10	11	19	2	..	25	5	2	11	5	7	1

District.	Penal Code—*contd.*																				
	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Desecrating of coolies' graves.	Insult.	Wrongful confinement.	Offences against public tranquillity.	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	Dealing with fire, &c., so as to endanger human life (section 285).	False prosecution.	Defamation (section 500).	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Forgery.	Enticing away a married woman.	Outraging female modesty.	Rape.	Total.	Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
Cachar	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	55	4	..	59
Sylhet	..	1	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	2	13	106
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Darrang	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	..	9	66
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	27
Sibságar	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	155	2	14	171
Lakhimpur	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	167	16	35	218
Total of 1892	2	2§	3	3	20	..	8	4	2	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	552	24	72	648
„ „ 1891	3	3	..	7	2	2	15	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	577	45	48	670

This table shows an increase of criminality, as compared with the previous year, in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and a decrease in Cachar,

* This includes two cases of assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.

† This includes two cases of mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy a house, &c.

‡ Mischief by fire.

§ This includes one case of counterfeit documents.

Sylhet, and Kámrúp, the decrease in Cachar being very marked (from 171 to 59 offences). The chief heads under which an increase occurred were "Unlawful assembly and affray" (from 47 to 65 cases), "Dishonestly receiving stolen property" (from 25 to 45 cases), and "Wrongful confinement" (from 2 to 20 cases). On the other hand, a satisfactory decrease is shown under the head "Rioting" (from 106 to 52 cases). The cases of rioting are further noticed in Chapter VII of this report.

The cases of murder and culpable homicide, which occurred in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, and Sibságar, do not call for special remark. An unusual offence is included in the Sylhet return under the head of "Desecrating coolies' graves." The record of this case will be called for. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang reports the occurrence of several cases of arson on tea gardens, but in no case was it found possible to secure a conviction.

The following table, which includes cases of desertion, compares the ratio of convictions to tea garden population during each of the past two years :

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per cent. of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	57,392	59,153	330	270	132	149	40	55
Sylhet	53,241	57,942	176	199	135	152	76	76
Kámrúp ...	2,286	2,454	28	3	25	1	89	33
Darrang ...	32,247	35,496	292	312	279	162	95	51
Nowgong ...	10,685	10,860	38	83	25	54	65	65
Sibságar ...	58,772	61,322	407	484	274	298	67	61
Lakhimpur ...	50,689	56,589	458	568	371	479	81	84
Total	265,314	283,819	1,729	1,919	1,241	1,295	71	67

There was thus a considerable increase in convictions in the districts of Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, and in the districts of Nowgong and Lakhimpur the number sent to prison was largely in excess of the figures of the previous year.

Provincial and district figures for desertions.

28. The following table shows the number of desertions amongst adults, district by district, for each of the past two years.

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non-Act.		Percentage of desertions on strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	2,994	3,536	675	920	2,319	2,616	8·82	12·55	4·66	5·03	5·21	5·97
Sylhet	3,024	3,986	546	797	2,478	3,189	6·85	11·12	5·48	6·28	5·68	6·86
Kámrúp	195	357	75	129	120	228	9·46	13·46	8·10	15·05	8·58	14·52
Darrang	1,067	1,203	748	697	319	506	3·56	2·93	2·83	4·32	3·30	3·38
Nowgong	314	446	130	214	184	232	3·54	5·37	2·61	3·37	2·93	4·10
Sibságar	1,576	1,995	995	1,292	581	703	2·67	3·32	2·67	3·14	2·68	3·24
Lakhimpur	1,510	2,054	1,154	1,492	356	562	3·78	4·32	1·74	2·53	2·97	3·61
Total	10,680	13,577	4,323	5,541	6,357	8,036	3·97	4·74	4·05	4·80	4·02	4·78

The above figures show a very considerable increase in desertions during the year under report as compared with the previous year, and this increase occurs equally under

the head of Act and non-Act coolies, and was common to all districts of the province except Darrang (in the case of Act coolies). Similarly, the percentages of desertions as regards both Act and non-Act coolies have increased in the case of every district, with the exception just noticed, with the result that the provincial percentage has advanced in the case of Act coolies from 3·97 to 4·74, and in the case of non-Act coolies from 4·05 to 4·80. At the same time it should be noted that the increase in the percentage of desertions for the province as a whole is not larger than might have been expected, seeing that the labour force increased during the year under report by 5·68 per cent. as compared with the preceding year, whereas the general percentage of desertions to the strength of the adult population advanced only from 4·02 to 4·78. The figures given below show that a similar explanation applies to every district with the exception of Kámrúp and Nowgong, in the case of which districts the figures are comparatively small, and the results may have been influenced by the operations in connection with the Assam-Bengal Railway :

District.	Percentage of increase or decrease of labour force as compared with the previous year.	Percentage of increase of desertions as compared with the previous year.
Cachar	+3·30	+ ·76
Sylhet	+6·87	+1·18
Kámrúp	−5·15	+5·94
Darrang	+7·84	+ ·08
Nowgong	−2·28	+1·17
Sibságar	+4·35	+ ·56
Lakhimpur	+9·30	+ ·64
Total	+5·68	+ ·76

Arrests and convictions.

29. The following table shows the number of desertions in each district, the number of warrants issued for the arrest of the deserters, and the number of convictions obtained :

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar... ...	920	95	24	102	16	2	144	135
Sylhet	797	75	32	45	.....	.....	77	76
Kámrúp ...	129	3	1	6	.....	.....	7	1
Darrang ...	697	147	35	124	.....	.....	159	155
Nowgong ...	214	19	3	44	9	.....	56	50
Sibságar ...	1,292	130	48	115	118	.....	281	259
Lakhimpur ...	1,492	52	15	316	.....	.....	331	316
Total of 1892 ...	5,541	521	158	752	143	2	1,055	992
„ „ *1891* ...	*4,323*	*630*	*218*	*647*	*28*	*3*	*896*	*797*

In spite, therefore, of the considerable increase which took place in the number of desertions amongst Act labourers, the number of warrants issued for their arrest shows a substantial decrease (from 630 during the previous year to 521 during the year under report). On the other hand, the number of such deserters arrested by managers increased from 647 to 752 and by the police from 28 to 143. Lastly, the number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion increased from 797 during the previous year to 992 during the year under report.

Proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively.

30. In accordance with the orders contained in paragraph 13 of the Resolution of the Government of India, reviewing the Provincial Report for 1891 (Revenue and Agricultural Department Resolution No. 2788-2790—66, dated the 28th November 1892), the following figures are given showing the proportion of desertions to labour force in each district in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively :

District.		Mean strength.		Number of desertions.		Percentage of desertions to labour force.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
Cachar ...	*Healthy gardens* ...	*84,710*	*85,341*	*1,552*	*1,870*	*1·83*	*2·19*	*4·02*
	Unhealthy „ ...	18,986	19,572	599	569	3·15	2·93	6·08
Sylhet ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*82,355*	*85,309*	*2,191*	*2,515*	*2·66*	*2·94*	*5·60*
	Unhealthy „ ...	12,313	12,583	259	387	2·10	3·07	5·17
Kámrúp ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*1,476*	*1,392*	*63*	*102*	*4·26*	*7·32*	*11·58*
	Unhealthy „ ...	2,281	2,267	176	170	7·71	7·49	15·20
Darrang ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*27,895*	*29,538*	*321*	*402*	*1·15*	*1·36*	*2·51*
	Unhealthy „ ...	21,652	22,141	372	280	1·71	1·26	2·97
Nowgong ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*11,460*	*11,195*	*196*	*185*	*1·71*	*1·65*	*3·36*
	Unhealthy „ ...	5,405	5,633	69	88	1·28	1·56	2·84
Sibságar ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*76,893*	*79,146*	*781*	*726*	*1·01*	*·91*	*1·92*
	Unhealthy „ ...	22,233	22,651	408	475	1·83	2·09	3·92
Lakhimpur ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*65,411*	*67,263*	*883*	*781*	*1·34*	*1·16*	*2·50*
	Unhealthy „ ...	18,555	19,969	388	455	2·14	2·27	4·41
Total ...	*Healthy* „ ...	*350,200*	*359,184*	*5,987*	*6,581*	*1·70*	*1·83*	*3·53*
	Unhealthy „ ...	101,425	104,616	2,271	2,424	2·23	2·31	4·54
Grand total		451,631	463,803	8,258	9,005	1·82	1·94	3·76

31. The following tables show the punishments inflicted during each of the past two years for desertions from healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively :

Punishments for desertions in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively.

A.—From healthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	70	125	3	4	1	1	18	77	..	..	..	2	34	14	..	2	7	7	7	15	..	3
Sylhet	14	71	..	..	..	1	1	3	5	8	..	7	2	23	2	18	2	3	..	4	2	4
Kámrúp	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	166*	851	..	2	..	..	48	9	10	7	..	..	34	26	29	1	30	11	..	2	..	..
Nowgong	14	26	1	2	..	..	2	11	..	..	5	7	2	6	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Sibságar	179	137	..	3	2	1	54	50	17	19	11	5	39	24	3	3	39	11	9	16	5	5
Lakhimpur	199	180	2	3	..	3	16	25	38	34	44	24	30	31	30	22	7	20	24	6	8	12
Total .. .	645	624	6	14	3	6	140	175	70	68	60	45	143	124	64	46	89	52	40	43	15	24

B.—From unhealthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	11	10	.	..	..	..	9	8	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	17	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	4	..	11	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Kámrúp	18	1	..	..	1	..	5	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	29	70‡	..	2	..	..	16	2	..	2	..	..	5	11	..	3	8	12	..	11	..	1
Nowgong	6	24	..	1	1	..	..	16	1	..	..	1	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibságar	24	122	..	6	..	2	6	44	5	6	6	7	2	26	..	2	4	10	1	14	..	5
Lakhimpur	47	136	1	..	1	4	9	11	2	23	7	14	12	59	..	12	13	10	1	2	1	1
Total	152	368	1	9	3	6	45	84	18	31	13	23	28	104	12	17	28	32	3	27	1	9

The figures above given do not call for detailed remarks, and the Chief Commissioner believes it to be the case that in imposing punishments for desertions, the officers concerned generally pay due regard to the state of health on the garden from which the desertions have taken place. Thus the Deputy Commissioner of the Sylhet district writes :

In punishing for desertions, due regard was had to the state of health on the garden.

And the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports :

The light sentences of a week's imprisonment and under were inflicted in cases in which coolies established pleas of illness or of low wages earned on account of bad health, and in some cases on new coolies who had deserted from remote gardens. From an examination of a large number of records, I am of opinion that subordinate magistrates have shown great discrimination in passing sentence.

In some of the district reports it is remarked that in no cases of desertions from unhealthy gardens was the plea put forward that the desertion was due to the unhealthiness of the garden or to panic. If the inference intended to be drawn from these remarks is that because no such plea was put forward at the time of trial, the desertions were

* Includes 15 persons who were ordered to return to the garden to fulfil their contracts.
† „ 27 „ „ „ go back to the garden without imprisonment.
‡ „ 26 „ „ sent back to garden.

not in any way due to the causes mentioned, the Chief Commissioner would observe that such an inference is obviously untenable, and that it by no means follows that because a deserter, when placed on trial, does not plead the unhealthiness of the garden as an excuse for desertion, the desertions had no connection with such unhealthiness. It is, however, unnecessary to pursue this matter, because, as above stated, there is no reason to suppose that the fact of the unhealthiness of a garden is not allowed due weight by officers when trying offences of this nature.

Nationality and sex of deserters.

32. The nationality and sex of deserters are shown below :

Nationality.	Sex.	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Bengal	Men	417	469	779	943	1,196	1,412	4·55	5·15	3·80	4·47	3·52	4·07
	Women	210	222	650	795	860	1,017	2·38	2·34	3·28	3·92		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men	532	722	1,353	1,497	1,885	2,219	11·93	13·51	8·63	8·85	7·85	8·05
	Women	193	313	889	1,083	1,082	1,396	6·17	7·89	6·09	6·55		
Behar	Men	231	394	322	366	553	760	6·38	8·53	5·23	5·73	4·57	5·81
	Women	84	162	184	250	268	412	2·99	4·03	3·43	2·62		
Chota Nagpur ..	Men	1,571	1,767	946	1,225	2,517	2,992	4·31	4·74	2·93	3·54	2·90	3·66
	Women	578	669	694	939	1,272	1,608	1·80	2·01	2·35	2·99		
Nepal	Men	51	48	9	18	60	66	91·23	65·02	5·65	11·86	22·70	22·35
	Women	13	8	3	2	16	10	61·90	43·04	3·18	2·02		
Madras.. ..	Men	134	248	36	115	170	363	6·44	9·05	2·85	5·86	3·30	6·04
	Women	26	115	17	67	43	182	1·49	4·80	1·30	3·57		
Bombay ..	Men	1	2	5	4	6	6	2·63	6·29	3·21	2·21	2·76	2·93
	Women	1	....	3	6	4	6	5·00	....	1·96	3·61		
Assam	Men	231	167	408	612	639	779	8·56	6·92	5·39	8·24	5·61	6·73
	Women	50	28	59	76	109	104	4·82	2·10	3·05	3·94		
Central Provinces ..	Men	....	155	....	17	....	172	....	16·75	....	3·54	..	9·61
	Women	....	52	....	14	....	66	....	7·43	....	3·85		
Orissa	Men	....	....	....	4	....	4	....	....	....	5·19	..	3·40
	Women	....	....	....	3	....	3	....	....	....	2·85		
Total	Men	3,168	3,972	3,858	4,801	7,026	8,773	5·41	6·35	4·59	5·38	4·93	5·78
	Women	1,155	1,569	2,499	3,235	3,654	4,804	2·31	2·89	3·43	4·12	2·98	3·62
Grand total ..	.....	4,323	5,541	6,357	8,036	10,680	13,577	3·98	4·47	4·06	4·80	4·02	4·78

The above figures show an increased tendency to desert amongst immigrants from all localities of recruitment except Nepal, the increase being especially marked in the case of immigrants from Madras. In regard to the results, so far as Ganjam coolies are concerned, the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong writes :

The Madras coolies show the largest percentage of desertions, and the Sanitary Commissioner of Assam, in inspecting the Udmari and Amlokhi tea gardens on the 11th February 1893, remarked that Ganjam coolies should not be allowed on these gardens. Regarding Udmari he writes :—"The manager states that a batch of Ganjam coolies, who were recruited for this garden, proved very unsatisfactory. They were not strong on arrival ; they could do but little work ; they were lazy and often sick, and were a cause of loss to the garden." A batch of 5 were sent in to me to have their names cut under section 122 within three months of their arrival. A more miserable and sickly-looking lot I never saw. They had to be sent in a cart, as they could not walk, and I had to send them to Silghat also in a cart to be put on board the steamer. How they were ever recruited is a puzzle to me. It was a simple swindling sending them up, and I should think it most probable that none of them lived to get home again. They were all coast Ganjamese. The hillmen are good coolies, but the coastmen should never be allowed to be recruited.

Under the head of "Immigrants from Nepal" the results in Lakhimpur did not correspond with those shown in the above table, and the Deputy Commissioner writes :

Nepalese show the highest percentage, with 65·53 amongst men and 91·66 amongst women. In fact, Nepalese do not work satisfactorily on tea gardens in this province. In the previous year there had been some attempt in this district to introduce Nepalese into gardens, but the attempt has not been a success.

33. It may be noted here that the figures given in the preceding paragraphs do not in all cases correspond with the statistics contained in the Jail and Police Administration Reports under the head of "Imprisonments and convictions for offences under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882." It is scarcely necessary to describe in detail the points of difference, but the matter will be enquired into and cleared up in communication with the Inspector General of Police and Jails.

Discrepancies between statistics and those given in the Jail and Police Administration Reports.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

34. The following figures show the birth rate per mille during each of the past two years, calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

Birth rate.

	1891.	1892.
Cachar	110·9	94·8
Sylhet	98·0	80·5
Kámrúp	85·5	66·9
Darrang	76·4	65·7
Nowgong	83·6	75·4
Sibságar	94·6	91·6
Lakhimpur	83·5	79·7
Total	94·2	83·5

There was thus a more or less considerable decrease in the birth rate in the case of every district, with the result that the provincial rate has fallen from 94·2 in the previous year to 83·5 per mille during the year under report, but there can be no doubt that the registration of births on gardens is so defective as to render the statistics practically worthless for any purpose whatsoever. As was observed in the report for the previous year, the Chief Commissioner can only look to Inspectors to do all that lies in their power with a view to effect improvement; and Mr. Ward is not without hope that if his scheme for the future inspection of gardens is approved by the Government of India and brought into operation, it will be possible to do something in the direction of bringing these statistics into closer approximation to the facts.

35. The following table distributes the births amongst the several nationalities, and strikes the ratio on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

Brith rate according to nationality.

District	Bengal.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Behar.			Chota Nagpur.			Nepal.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar	10,365	941	90·7	5,142	621	120·7	2,692	292	108·4	7,697	663	86·1	71	2	28·1
Sylhet ..	5,889	471	79·9	11,019	884	80·2	2,725	194	71·1	6,931	615	88·7	9	..	....
Kámrúp	576	46	79·8	45	3	66·6	18	3	166·6	446	20	44·8	....	..	....
Darrang	2,996	98	32·7	1,103	88	79·7	609	77	126·4	8,626	594	68·8	30	3	100·0
Nowgong	692	88	127·2	172	10	58·1	194	5	25·8	3,091	196	63·4	....	..	....
Sibságar	5,546	809	145·8	2,142	74	34·5	1,900	119	62·6	17,715	1,552	87·6	3	..	....
Lakhimpur ..	3,245	151	46·5	834	42	50·3	992	36	36·2	19,871	1,779	89·5	5	..	....
Total of 1892 ..	29,311	2,604	88·8	20,459	1,722	84·1	9,132	726	79·5	64,377	5,419	84·1	119	5	42·0
„ „ *1891* ..	*28,634*	*2,739*	*95·6*	*17,694*	*2,006*	*113·4*	*8,138*	*861*	*105·8*	*61,749*	*6,506*	*89·1*	*114*	*5*	*43·8*

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Assam.			Central Provinces.			Orissa.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.
Cachar ..	527	11	20·8	181	6	33·1	78	2	25·6	143	9	62·9	....	..	..	26,899	2,547	94·8
Sylhet ..	2,086	142	68·0	6	..	..	20	12	600·	194	11	56·7	101	4	39·6	28,980	2,333	80·5
Kámrúp ..	26	..	..	....	..	..	154	13	84·4	4	..	..	....	..	..	1,269	85	66·9
Darrang ..	575	57	99·1	....	..	..	1,749	99	56·6	160	26	162·5	....	..	..	15,850	1,042	65·7
Nowgong ..	105	8	76·2	....	..	..	541	47	86·9	41	11	268·3	....	..	..	4,839	365	75·4
Sibságar ..	543	25	46·0	8	..	..	594	45	75·7	196	2	10·2	....	..	..	28,652	2,626	91·6
Lakhimpur ..	474	26	54·9	....	..	..	109	9	82·5	316	19	60·1	....	..	..	25,848	2,062	79·7
Total of 1892 ..	4,338	269	62·0	195	6	30·7	3,247	227	69·9	1,055	78	73·9	101	4	39·6	132,339	11,060	83·5
„ „ 1891 ..	*3,090*	*171*	*55·3*	*176*	*4*	*22·7*	*3,053*	*262*	*85·8*	....	..	..	*51*	*3*	*58·8*	*122,702*	*11,557*	*94·2*

Death rate for the year.

36. The statistics of mortality in each district for each half-year separately are given in the table below with the corresponding figures of the previous year :

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	1,883	2,045	2,008	1,997	3,891	4,042	18·5	19·7	19·5	19·0	38·0	38·7
Sylhet	1,472	1,578	1,757	1,953	3,229	3,531	17·1	16·6	19·1	19·9	36·7	36·5
Kámrúp	130	125	100	137	230	262	39·0	33·2	27·5	37·4	66·5	70·6
Darrang	878	1,397	1,049	1,354	1,927	2,751	19·6	28·1	22·4	26·2	42·0	54·3
Nowgong	307	495	365	418	672	913	18·9	29·4	21·8	24·8	40·7	54·2
Sibságar	1,333	1,941	1,725	2,041	3,058	3,982	14·1	19·5	17·8	20·0	31·9	39·5
Lakhimpur	1,202	1,619	1,623	2,150	2,825	3,769	15·8	19·3	20·3	24·6	36·1	43·9
Total	7,205	9,200	8,627	10,050	15,832	19,250	17·1	20·3	19·7	21·6	36·8	41·9

It will thus be seen that the annual death rate for the year under report was higher than that for the previous year in all the labour districts of the province except Sylhet, the increase being specially marked in the Assam Valley districts. This result was doubtless largely due to the increased number of new and unacclimatized coolies in consequence of the larger importation of the past two years, and also to the fact that in many cases the coolies imported were of poor physique. The occurrence of outbreaks of cholera and influenza is given by some officers as a further reason for the increase of mortality. It is true that the year under report was a peculiarly unhealthy one amongst the general population of the country ; but the Chief Commissioner fears that the main cause which operated to produce the increased rate of mortality amongst the garden population is to be found in the recruitment, during recent years, of coolies of poor physique, who were unable to stand the change of climate to which they were subjected, or to perform the work expected from them. Of the correctness of this statement there is abundant evidence, some of which will be reproduced in later paragraphs of the present report.

37. The following table shows the mortality amongst both Act and non-Act adults during each of the past two years :

Death rate amongst adults.

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar	633	798	1,776	2,003	2,409	2,801	83·2	108·7	35·7	38·5	41·8	47·4	57,392	59,153
Sylhet	390	397	1,756	1,996	2,146	2,393	49·2	55·3	38·5	39·2	40·1	41·1	53,241	57,942
Kámrúp	91	110	81	99	172	209	114·8	115·0	54·8	65·8	75·2	85·1	2,286	2,454
Darrang	1,040	1,680	342	453	1,382	2,133	49·2	70·6	30·3	43·2	42·5	60·0	32,248	35,496
Nowgong	208	285	270	343	478	628	57·0	71·6	38·1	49·7	44·7	57·8	10,685	10,860
Sibságar	1,561	2,162	527	658	2,088	2,820	41·8	55·5	24·2	29·4	35·4	45·9	58,772	61,322
Lakhimpur	1,493	2,077	614	764	2,107	2,841	49·1	60·1	29·9	34·4	41·4	50·0	50,689	56,589
Total	5,416	7,509	5,366	6,316	10,782	13,825	49·8	64·3	34·1	37·7	40·5	48·7	265,315	283,819

These figures disclose a lamentable increase in the mortality amongst both Act and non-Act adults during the year under report, which was common to all districts of the province. The following explanations of this result are given by Deputy Commissioners :

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar (Mr. Herald) writes :

From the above figures it appears that the total increase to the death rate was shared by both Act and non-Act adults, the rate among Act adults having advanced by 25·5 and that among non-Act adults by 2·8 per mille. The increase in the case of the former is due to the large importation during the year of a bad type of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behar, among whom deaths and desertions are very common almost everywhere. It is a known fact that the contractors, failing to procure supplies of a better class, palm off decrepit specimens of humanity, and it is no wonder that there should be such losses by deaths and desertions.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet (Mr. O'Brien) reports :

The high death rate observable on some gardens is due to the practice of importing cheap and bad coolies, *e.g.*, a North-Wester costs about Rs. 15, and is likely to die in his first year, whereas a good jungly coolie, who thrives in this climate, cannot be imported usually under Rs. 100. Now, out of every 9 North-Westers costing Rs. 135, 3 may possibly die in the first year. The other 6 will by that time be acclimatized, and will have cost the same as 3 junglies, say, Rs. 300. This gives a balance of 3 men to the credit of the garden.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang (Mr. Anderson) writes :

The death rate increased on almost every garden in the district. This was partly due to an outbreak of cholera last spring (and this chiefly affected gardens which have not imported much labour this year), but chiefly to the extremely poor type of coolie imported in large numbers this year.

Mr. Anderson adds—

The enormous mortality among Act coolies is bad enough as it stands. But it has been chiefly among the new coolies. If the history of particular gangs be looked up, it will be seen that the percentage among them is simply too shocking for words to describe.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kámrúp and Nowgong (Messrs. Tennon and Kennedy) express their opinion that the increased mortality was due to epidemics of cholera and influenza, and the Deputy Commissioners of Sibságar and Lakhimpur (Messrs. Monahan and Greenshields) make no remarks on the subject.

The conclusion at which the Chief Commissioner has arrived has already been stated in the foregoing paragraph, and the matter is further referred to in paragraph 43.

38. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths which occurred amongst Act labourers during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths amongst Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1892.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1892 ..	7,204	7,417	192	177	169	54	56	150	309	489	798	108·7
	1891 ..	*8,020*	*7,399*	*133*	*108*	*113*	*23*	*44*	*212*	*216*	*417*	*633*	*83·2*
Sylhet	1892 ..	7,426	6,962	48	85	56	43	11	154	186	211	397	55·3
	1891 ..	*8,192*	*7,646*	*56*	*68*	*44*	*57*	*23*	*142*	*196*	*194*	*390*	*49·2*
Kámrúp	1892 ..	932	974	43	5	9	2	31*	20	46	64	110	115·0
	1891 ..	*745*	*842*	*6*	*15*	*7*	*3*	*42*	*18*	*44*	*47*	*91*	*114·8*
Darrang	1892 ..	23,256	24,257	322	311	349	84	271	343	811	869	1,680	70·6
	1891 ..	*20,116*	*21,857*	*218*	*188*	*83*	*57*	*193*	*301*	*450*	*590*	*1,040*	*49·2*
Nowgong	1892 ..	3,907	4,063	31	56	15	8	17	158†	145	140	285	71·6
	1891 ..	*3,488*	*3,770*	*56*	*91*	*8*	*6*	*27*	*80*	*88*	*120*	*208*	*57·0*
Sibságar	1892 ..	38,746	39,010	402	441	141	110	118	950‡	1,041	1,121	2,162	55·5
	1891 ..	*36,385*	*37,785*	*180*	*357*	*137*	*70*	*101*	*716*	*651*	*910*	*1,561*	*41·3*
Lakhimpur	1892 ..	33,552	35,289	405	542	108	53	271	698	898	1,179	2,077	60·1
	1891 ..	*28,997*	*31,525*	*169*	*390*	*173*	*83*	*217*	*461*	*650*	*843*	*1,493*	*49·1*
Total of	1892 ..	115,025	117,973	1,443	1,617	847	354	775	2,473	3,436	4,073	7,509	64·3
	1891 ..	*105,943*	*110,525*	*818*	*1,157*	*565*	*299*	*647*	*1,930*	*2,295*	*3,121*	*5,416*	*49·8*
	1890 ..	*100,367*	*102,684*	*1,097*	*1,192*	*603*	*367*	*394*	*2,000*	*2,606*	*3,047*	*5,653*	*55·6*

Taking the province as a whole, an increase occurred, as compared with the previous year, in the number of deaths under all heads of disease, the increase being especially great under the heads of "Cholera," "Dysentery," "Jungle fever," and "Other causes." As regards the district of Cachar, which shows an increase under all heads except "Other causes," the Deputy Commissioner makes no remarks beyond referring to the unusual prevalence of dysentery, fever, and dropsy throughout the rains.

Commenting on the figures for the district of Sylhet, where an increase of mortality is especially observable under the heads of "Dysentery" and "Jungle fever," the Deputy Commissioner writes :

The past year was marked by the prevalence of fever in an epidemic form in almost all parts of the district. Cholera and dysentery also caused many deaths in the interior of the district. The above statements go to show that many Act coolies died from dysentery, while among the non-Act coolies (both adults and children) dysentery and fever prevailed. In North Sylhet, especially on the Jaintia side, many coolies died from cholera, contracted mostly from the neighbouring villages in which the disease prevailed.

In Kámrúp a considerable increase occurred in the number of deaths due to cholera, which was due to outbreaks of that disease on certain gardens. In the remaining districts of the Assam Valley a large increase of mortality took place.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang writes :

The table tells its own tale. It is quite clear that though cholera accounted for many deaths, the huge death roll of the year was chiefly due to anæmia and sickly new immigrants. This will more clearly appear when individual unhealthy gardens are considered.

In Nowgong the general results are affected by the occurrence of forty-six deaths due to influenza, which was prevalent in that district during the year under report. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar makes no remarks, although a more or less considerable increase occurred under every head of disease, and the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur confines his observations to the results under the head of *anœmia*, as to which he writes :

Particular attention is now given to the diagnosis and treatment of anæmia or *anchylostomiasis* The Civil Surgeon during the inspection of gardens takes special care to see that the native doctors understand what *beri-beri* is. There is now hardly any garden in this district which is not supervised by a European medical officer, and better results are expected gradually.

* Includes 14 deaths from *anchylostomiasis* or *kála-azár*.
† „ 46 „ „ influenza.
‡ „ 207 „ „ „

39. The table below shows the recorded causes of deaths amongst adult non-Act coolies during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths amongst non-Act coolies.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act coolies employed in 1892.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cachar	1892 ..	51,474	52,211	221	379	360	95	21	927	1,122	881	2,003*	38·5
	1891 ..	*48,812*	*50,554*	*378*	*262*	*383*	*66*	*31*	*667*	*886*	*891*	*1,776*	*35·7*
Sylhet	1892 ..	39,581	51,915	212	484	375	210	52	663	878	1,118	1,996	39·2
	1891 ..	*44,010*	*46,634*	*281*	*359*	*293*	*234*	*50*	*539*	*727*	*1,029*	*1,765*	*38·5*
Kámrúp	1892 ..	1,553	1,450	20	3	20	..	48‡	8	53	48	99	65·8
	1891 ..	*1,429*	*1,557*	*11*	*8*	*12*	*1*	*47*	*2*	*51*	*30*	*81*	*54·8*
Darrang	1892 ..	11,586	11,893	95	68	53	18	38	181	240	203	443	38·5
	1891 ..	*11,267*	*11,266*	*136*	*42*	*40*	*33*	*45*	*46*	*186*	*156*	*342*	*30·3*
Nowgong	1892 ..	7,014	6,737	27	51	39	16	13†	19‡	213	130	343	49·7
	1891 ..	*7,017*	*7,095*	*38*	*22*	*60*	*9*	*8*	*133*	*134*	*136*	*270*	*38·1*
Sibságar	1892 ..	21,934	22,953	91	99	60	13	28	367	580	278	658	29·4
	1891 ..	*21,676*	*21,799*	*78*	*90*	*52*	*22*	*16*	*269*	*271*	*256*	*527*	*24·2*
Lakhimpur	1892 ..	21,811	22,523	116	125	76	36	76	335	358	406	764	34·4
	1891 ..	*20,148*	*20,708*	*67*	*125*	*55*	*35*	*75*	*267*	*271*	*343*	*614*	*29·9*
Total	1892 ..	164,957	169,684	782	1,209	983	388	282	2,672	3,254	3,062	6,316	37·7
	1891 ..	*154,249*	*159,614*	*979*	*908*	*895*	*899*	*272*	*1,913*	*2,525*	*2,841*	*5,366*	*34·1*
	1890 ..	*147,328*	*149,847*	*799*	*652*	*717*	*259*	*90*	*1,773*	*2,225*	*2,035*	*4,290*	*28·8*

This table shows an increase of mortality amongst non-Act adults in the province generally under every head of disease except cholera and dropsy, and more especially under the heads of "Dysentery," "Jungle fever," and "Other causes."

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar notices that several gardens were visited during the year under report by small-pox, which accounts for several of the deaths under the head "Other causes."

40. The statement below shows the death rate amongst children (that is, from birth to the age of sixteen years) during each of the past two years :

Death rate amongst children.

District.	Mean strength of children in 1892.		Deaths from						Total of columns 4 to 9.			Total of 1891.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Jungle fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.		1892.	1891.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar	45,017	45,085	175	234	237	49	4	542	614	627	1,241	1,482	27·5	33·1
Sylhet	37,660	39,015	100	254	373	45	14	348	514	624	1,138	1,083	29·5	31·3
Kámrúp	1,272	1,235	11	6	20	..	11‡	5	26	27	53	58	42·3	49·0
Darrang	14,707	15,529	134	103	81	37	43	220	336	282	618	545	40·9	40·1
Nowgong	5,943	6,028	16	32	41	5	5§	146	137	148	285	194	47·7	33·6
Sibságar	38,441	39,834	79	276	262	27	22	496	520	642	1,162	970	29·6	26·3
Lakhimpur	28,600	29,420	60	184	211	25	68	380	363	565	928	718	31·8	26·1
Total of 1892	171,648	176,146	575	1,129	1,225	192	167	2,137	2,510	2,915	5,426	..	31·1	..
„ „ *1891*	*161,638*	*166,026*	*582*	*897*	*1,153*	*252*	*140*	*2,026*	*2,385*	*2,665*	*5,050*	..	..	*30·7*

It will thus be seen that the mortality amongst children showed an increase under every head of disease except cholera and dropsy. On the other hand, the death rate per mille does not show as large a proportionate increase as in the case of adults, and

* Includes 42 deaths from *kála-azár*.
† „ 15 „ „ *anchylostomiasis* and *beri-beri*.
‡ „ 10 „ „ *kála azár*.
§ „ 3 „ „ *anchylostomiasis* and *beri-beri*.

the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, and Kámrúp show an absolute decrease in the rate as compared with the previous year ; but it must be remembered that no great reliance can be placed on the figures, which are less trustworthy than in the case of adults.

Order of demerit as regards death rate.

41. The following is the order of demerit of the various districts both with regard to the mortality amongst the three different classes of the labour force and the total mortality :

District	Order of mortality among			
	Act adults.	Non-Act adults.	Children.	Total.
Cachar	2	5	7	6
Sylhet	7	4	6	7
Kámrúp	1	1	2	1
Darrang	4	3	3	2
Nowgong	3	2	1	3
Sibságar	6	7	5	5
Lakhimpur	5	6	4	4

The noteworthy point in the above statement is that as regards the total mortality, Cachar and Sylhet have improved their position, whereas Sibságar and Lakhimpur have retrograded ; Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong hold the same relative position, judged by the total mortality, as they did during the previous year.

Mortality according to country of origin.

42. The statement below shows the mortality distributed according to nationality, and gives figures for adults only :

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Bengal ...	Men ...	927	1,123	32·1	38·0	58,273	59,491
	Women ...	947	1,138				
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	1,092	1,393	52·7	56·1	37,877	42,697
	Women ...	916	1,128				
Behar ...	Men ...	476	669	49·6	58·0	17,949	20,084
	Women ...	418	499				
Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	2,752	3,388	41·1	48·9	1,30,623	1,36,058
	Women ...	2,622	3,269				
Nepal ...	Men ...	10	9	48·5	32·3	331	340
	Women ...	6	2				
Madras ...	Men ...	188	380	56·4	80·3	6,434	9,024
	Women ...	176	348				
Bombay ...	Men ...	3	8	16·5	29·4	365	408
	Women ...	3	4				
Assam ...	Men ...	148	187	18·3	21·4	13,344	13,075
	Women ...	97	94				
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	...	111	...	73·1	...	2,426
	Women ...	...	71				
Orissa ...	Men ...	1	1	8·3	21·7	117	213
	Women ...	...	3				
Total ...	Men ...	5,597	7,269	39·2	47·9	142,613	151,480
	Women ...	5,185	6,556	42·2	49·4	122,702	132,339
Grand total ...	...	10,782	13,825	40·5	48·7	265,315	283,819

In regard to the immigrants from the four main localities of recruitment, *viz.*, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Behar, and Chota Nagpur, it will be seen that the greatest proportionate mortality occurred amongst immigrants from Behar, next come the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, then Chota Nagpur, and lastly Bengal. Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have therefore changed places in this respect as compared with the previous year. The mortality rate amongst Madras coolies shows a considerable and unsatisfactory increase (from 56·4 per mille in the previous year to 80·3 per mille in the year under report).

43. The following statement shows the proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district. All gardens on which ten or more deaths have occurred amongst the total population, Act or non-Act, or Act and non-Act taken together, and the death rate on which exceeds 7 per cent. are classed as unhealthy gardens.

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

District.	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	187	186	25	20	13·4	10·7
Sylhet	118	119	12	16	10·2	13·4
Kámrúp	50	50	6	7	12·0	14·0
Darrang	89	90	15	33	16·8	36·6
Nowgong	59	56	8	11	13·5	19·6
Sibságar	224	223	12	32	5·4	14·3
Lakhimpur	145	143	11	24	7·6	16·7
Total	872	867	89	143	10·2	16·4

Thus the proportion of unhealthy gardens for the province as a whole shows a very considerable increase as compared with the previous year, which was especially marked in the districts of Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur, Cachar being the only district which shows a decrease. As regards the present system of classifying gardens as unhealthy, the Chief Commissioner would invite attention to the remarks made in paragraph 39 of the Provincial Report for 1891. Mr. Ward desires to add that he entirely accepts the view of the Government of India that the sections of the Act which relate to unhealthy gardens should be applied with greater strictness than has hitherto been used, and orders have been issued, which, it is hoped, will produce the desired result. In these orders it has been pointed out to Deputy Commissioners that the fact that garden managers have taken all possible precautions against sickness and mortality on their gardens by adopting sanitary measures which have been recommended is no ground for not appointing a committee to enquire and determine whether the garden, or any portion of it, is or is not fit for the residence of labourers or of any particular class of labourers. If, in spite of all sanitary percautions, a garden continues to be unhealthy year after year, the provisions of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, must be enforced, and the fact must be recognised that the Act cannot be maintained for the benefit of unhealthy gardens. It has also been pointed out that the importation of bad batches of coolies can no longer be accepted as a valid excuse for high mortality, and that managers of gardens must now be held responsible for importing such batches. As has been remarked by the Government of India, if managers permit the continued importation of a class of coolies large numbers of which they are certain to lose, and if such a state of things is allowed to be repeated, and it becomes clear that those in charge of the garden either cannot or will not provide a remedy, the law should be put in force without hesitation, and the garden should be closed to the coolies of the class amongst which the mortality has occurred. District officers will be requested to inform all employers that the Chief Commissioner intends in future to insist on effect being given to these instructions, and at the same time to draw their attention to the provisions of sections 42A and 42B of the Act, as amended, in regard to the medical examination of labourers recruited through the agency of contractors. Further, with reference to the tendency of Inspectors to accept the plea of the occurrence of an epidemic as a sufficient reason for not enforcing the law against the garden concerned, the Chief Commissioner, while fully agreeing that such a plea is in many cases a valid one and that action should not be taken under the Act in cases in which gardens ordinarily healthy are brought on the unhealthy list merely in consequence of the occurrence of an epidemic, is by no means prepared to admit that a plea of this nature should be accepted without examination ; and Deputy Commissioners have accordingly been instructed always to examine the circumstances with especial reference to the question whether the occurrence of an epidemic has been caused by the existence of insanitary conditions on the garden concerned. Lastly, the instructions issued include a direction that committees, when appointed, must, in accordance with the terms of the law, always record a definite finding as to whether the estate concerned, or any portion of it, is or

is not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers. In many cases it has been found impossible to take action on the reports of committees owing to the fact that no distinct finding as regards the above point was placed upon record. The attention of Deputy Commissioners will also be called to the necessity for recording in every case whether the finding of the committee is unanimous with reference to the provisions of section 129A of the amended Act.

In the following paragraphs each district will be taken up separately with reference to the inspection reports of Civil Surgeons, and with especial regard to the statistics in the case of gardens on the unhealthy list, so far as Act labourers are concerned. As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, Deputy Commissioners have in all cases been required to deal separately with each particular garden falling under this category, and to show cause in each case why a committee should not be held under the provisions of the Act. The recommendations made by the district officers have been carefully scrutinized, in the case of the Surma Valley, by the Chief Commissioner, and in that of the Assam Valley both by the Chief Commissioner and by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and supplementary action has been taken in every case in which it appeared necessary. The Chief Commissioner has on the present occasion discontinued the system of printing *in extenso* and embodying in the Provincial Report or as an appendix the inspection reports of Civil Surgeons on unhealthy gardens, because those reports are now submitted in great detail according to a prescribed form; and Mr. Ward does not think that the advantages to be gained from their publication in detail would be counterbalanced by the large amount of printing involved, while the selection and publication of isolated passages for this purpose might only create a false impression as to the actual position of affairs on the particular garden concerned. At the same time care will be taken that the reports are in all cases communicated to the managers of the gardens to which they relate. In the case of all gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, on which committees have been ordered, Deputy Commissioners will be required to report their proceedings in the Assam Valley to the Commissioner and in the Surma Valley to the Chief Commissioner, with a view to such further action being taken as may seem to be required in each case. In regard to those gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, the question of holding committees on which has been allowed to lie over pending receipt of the returns of mortality for the first half-year of 1893, or pending further inspection, Deputy Commissioners will similarly be required to report, and care will be taken that committees are held in all cases in which such a step is called for.

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

44. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Cachar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Kalaincherra ...	110	114	4	13	17	36·3	114·0	150·3
	2. Ballacherra ...	199	204	7	15	22	35·1	73·5	108·6
	3. Dudpatli Bara and Chaltakandi ...	84	100	6	14	20	71·4	140 0	211·4
	4. Indrogram ...	88	101	3	27	30	34·0	267·3	301·3
	5. Arkatipur and two out-gardens	197	167	6	8	14	30·4	47·9	78·3
	6. Dayapur and Alaicherra	120	85	7	11	18	58·3	129·4	187·7
	7. Thailu	171	135	11	9	20	64·3	66·6	130·9
	8. Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	236	264	14	32	46	59·3	121·2	180·5
	9. Kataland four out-gardens	302	284	10	27	37	33·1	95·0	128·1
	10. Scottpur	137	129	10	12	22	72·9	93·0	165·9
Hailákándi.	11. Lalacherra ...	90	96	1	13	14	11·1	135·4	146·5
	Total	1,734	1,679	79	181	260	45·5	107·8	153·3

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Kalaincherra	4	6	...	1	...	6	17
	2. Ballacherra	...	15	1	...	...	6	22
	3. Dudpatli Bara and Chaltakandi	2	7	2	1	2	6	20
	4. Indrogram	...	15	2	7	...	6	30
	5. Arkatipur and two out-gardens	...	5	3	...	...	6	14
	6. Dayapur and Ataicherra ...	3	6	...	2	...	7	18
	7. Thailu	1	8	3	1	6	1	20
	8. Rosekandi, Rosepur, and Etipur	...	6	...	...	...	40	46
	9. Katal and four out-gardens ...	...	11	2	7	4	13	37
	10. Scottpur	3	3	2	3	...	11	22
Hailákándi	11. Lalacherra	...	3	1	3	...	7	14
	Total	13	85	16	25	12	109	260

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	12. Kasipur ...	1,060	977	38	35	73	35·8	35·8	71·6

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	12. Kasipur	12	9	19	3	...	30	73

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr.	13. Chandighat and Rangamati	583	626	13	37	50	22·2	59·1	81·3
	14. Tikalpar, Upper and Lower, and Salganga ...	1,269	1,194	48	42	90	37·8	35·1	72·9
	15. Pathicherra and Isacherra .	836	977	34	29	63	40·6	29·6	70·2
	16. Kumbirgram ...	950	923	50	39	89	52·6	42·2	94·8
	17. Bandhu	290	316	11	25	36	37·9	79·1	117·0
	18. Dhubidar, Bhubandhar, and Bhubankhal ...	517	511	13	25	38	25·1	48·9	74·0
Haila-kándi.	19. Mohanpur	439	437	20	19	39	45·5	43·5	89·0
	20. Nuniakhal	346	321	19	13	32	54·9	40·5	95·4
	Total	5,230	5,305	208	229	437	39·7	43·1	82·8

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Sub-division.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr.	13. Chandighat and Rangamati ...	1	10	2	4	...	33	50
	14. Tikalpar, Upper and Lower, and Salganga ...	41	18	6	7	...	18	90
	15. Pathicherra and Isacherra ...	12	19	6	11	...	15	63
	16. Kumbirgram	42	20	2	6	...	19	89
	17. Bandhu	1	15	13	1	...	6	36
	18. Dhubidar, Bhubandhar, and Bhubankhal ...	3	8	4	3	...	20	38
Haila-kándi.	19. Mohanpur	13	2	5	2	...	17	39
	20. Nuniakhal	11	6	1	5	...	9	32
	Total	124	98	39	39	...	137	437

As regards the gardens unhealthy on the Act population, the Deputy Commissioner writes :

(1) *Kalaincherra*—Was unhealthy only for second half of last year owing to importations of batches of bad coolies, 13 of whom died in six months. It is otherwise a healthy garden. I have issued orders that all new importations for gardens on the black list are to be taken at once to the Civil Surgeon, and any doubtful cases freely rejected and sent back to their country. This procedure has already resulted in a good many importations having had their agreements cut, and seems to fully meet the circumstances of the case. I do not therefore propose a committee on Kalaincherra.

(2) *Ballacherra*.—The above reasons apply to this garden. The death rate was owing to 22 deaths in second half-year weakly importations of the previous season.

(3) *Dudpatli*.—High death rate due to (1) the usual weakly importations, (2) an outbreak of cholera. This is a healthy garden most years, and does not call for special measures.

(4) *Indrogram*.—Unhealthy owing to 27 deaths in second half-year—the result of importing totally unfit coolies. I think the measures already described are sufficient for this year.

(5) *Arkatipur*.—High death rate due to influenza during second half-year. No special measures seem called for in this garden. Has hitherto been healthy.

(6) *Dayapur*.—High death rate due to small number of Act-I coolies and importation of bad batches. I shall hold a committee on this garden if the death rates for first half-year of 1893 exceed 4 per cent.

(7) *Thailu*.—I shall hold a committee on this garden if the death rate for this half-year exceeds 4 per cent.

(8) *Rosekandi*.—Same remarks as against Dayapur and Thailu.

(9) *Katal*.—Unhealthy during second half-year owing to bad batches of new arrivals. I think the measures already adopted are sufficient.

(10) *Scottpur*.—Same remarks as for Dayapur.

(11) *Lalacherra*.—Only 1 death in first half-year and 13 in second, due to bad batch of coolies. I shall hold a committee if the first half-yearly returns disclose more than 5 deaths among Act coolies.

As the action which the Deputy Commissioner proposed to take did not appear to be sufficient with reference to the past history of the gardens concerned, the Chief Commissioner, in exercise of the power conferred by section 128A of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, has directed the Deputy Commissioner to hold committees in the case of all gardens unhealthy on the Act population during 1892, which were on the unhealthy list during either of the years 1890 or 1891, and the returns of which for the first half of 1893 show a mortality of more than 4 per cent. amongst Act labourers, the mortality amongst Act labourers having exceeded 7 per cent. during the past twelve months.

45. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Sylhet, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
North Sylhet ...	1. Malnicherra ...	63	68	3	8	11	47·6	117·6	165·2
South Sylhet ...	2. Luayani ...	156	97	7	9	16	44·8	92·7	137·5
	3. North Bharaura ..	143	134	6	4	10	41·9	29·8	71·7
	4. Lakhaicherra ...	306	266	13	13	26	42·4	48·8	91·2
	5. Kalighat ...	298	221	5	13	18	16·7	58·8	75·5
	6. Satgaon ...	226	222	4	12	16	17·6	54·0	71·6
	7. Dhalai ...	161	172	3	11	14	18·6	63·9	82·5
	8. South Bharaura ..	107	115	5	6	11	46·7	52·1	98·8
	Total ...	1,460	1,295	46	76	122	31·5	58·6	90·1

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
North Sylhet ...	1. Malnicherra ...	...	2	5	4	...	...	11
South Sylhet ...	2. Luayani ...	3	4	...	2	...	7	16
	3. North Bharaura ...	...	2	...	2	...	6	10
	4. Lakhaicherra ...	2	1	...	1	1	21	26
	5. Kalighat ...	2	2	5	1	...	8	18
	6. Satgaon ...	2	5	1	1	...	7	16
	7. Dhalai ...	2	9	2	...	...	1	14
	8. South Bharaura ...	1	2	1	4	...	3	11
	Total ...	12	27	14	15	1	53	122

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
North Sylhet ...	9. Bagcherra ...	314	297	1	37	38	3·1	124·5	127·6
Karimganj ...	10. Bidyanagar ...	491	529	17	22	39	34·6	41·5	76·1
	11. Sonakhira ...	354	364	13	32	45	36·7	87·9	124·6
	12. Lalkhira ...	523	491	26	81	107	49·7	164·9	214·6
Habiganj ...	13. Lalchand ...	878	858	40	28	68	45·5	32·6	78·1
	Total ...	2,560	2,539	97	200	297	37·8	78·7	116·5

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
North Sylhet ...	9. Bagcherra ...	34	...	1	...	...	3	38
Karimganj ...	10. Bidyanagar ...	3	16	5	...	1	14	39
	11. Sonakhira ...	2	12	16	7	...	8	45
	12. Lalkhira ...	...	33	26	2	4	42	107
Habiganj ...	13. Lalchand ...	8	14	2	5	...	39	68
	Total ...	47	75	50	14	5	106	297

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
South Sylhet ...	14. Huglicherra ...	253	432	19	11	30	75·0	25·4	100·4
Karimganj ...	15. Shabajpur ...	517	491	11	25	36	21·2	50·9	72·1
Habiganj ...	16. Amo ...	1,050	1,089	34	51	85	32·3	46·8	79·1
	Total ...	1,820	2,012	64	87	151	35·1	43·2	78·3

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
South Sylhet ...	14. Huglicherra ...	7	1	4	4	1	13	30
Karimganj ...	15. Shabajpur ...	...	11	3	3	...	19	36
Habiganj ...	16. Amo	8	9	21	11	6	30	85
	Total	15	21	28	18	7	62	151

As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population, the Deputy Commissioner reports as follows:

(1) *North Bharaura.*—Efforts are being made to improve the class of labourers. The sanitary state is good.

(2) *Lakhaicherra.*—The Civil Surgeon's recommendations are being carried out. There is a noticeable diminution in the death rate.

(3) *Kalighat.*—This is a well-managed garden in every respect. The high death rate was due to influenza, which could not be provided against.

(4) *Satgaon.*—The manager is doing his best towards making this garden healthy by removing the lines to a better site and improving the water-supply.

Committees will be held on Malnicherra, Luayani, Dhalai, and South Bharaura, unless there is a marked decrease in the death rate during the current half-year.

The Deputy Commissioner has been directed to hold committees on the Malnicherra, Luayani, Dhalai, and South Bharaura gardens if the returns for the first half-year of 1893 show a mortality of more than 4 per cent. amongst Act labourers. As regards the other unhealthy gardens, instructions have been issued that committees should be held in the case of any of these which were on the unhealthy list during either of the years 1890 or 1891, if the returns for the first half-year of 1893 show a mortality of more than 4 per cent. amongst the Act population.

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

46. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Sonapur	204	213	10	11	21	49·0	51·6	100·6

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Sonapur	11	...	...	...	4	6	21

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
2. Ramsha-Clarence-Rajabari ...	350	294	18	19	37	51·4	64·6	116·0

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
2. Ramsha-Clarence-Rajabari	3	...	14	...	...	20	37

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
3. Kendubam	127	126	3	23	26	23·6	182·5	206·1
4. Bordwar	425	475	7	30	37	16·4	63·1	79·5
5. Mandakata	298	335	16	15	31	53·6	44·7	98·3
6. Chunsali	442	473	29	7	36	65·6	14·8	80·4
7. Chandrapur	208	116	11	6	17	52·8	51·7	104·5
Total	1,500	1,525	66	81	147	44·0	53·1	97·1

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
3. Kendubam	21	...	...	...	3	2	26
4. Bordwar	18	1	1	...	...	17	37
5. Mandakata	11	6	8	...	6	...	31
6. Chunsali	3	3	6	...	1	23	36
7. Chandrapur	...	3	3	1	...	10	17
Total	53	13	18	1	10	52	147

Only one garden was unhealthy on the Act population, *viz.*, Sonapur, in regard to which the Deputy Commissioner writes :

There have been no deaths during the first four months of this year. All the arrangements are described as excellent. The garden was on the unhealthy list owing to epidemic cholera. This does not seem to be a case for committee.

The Deputy Commissioner's view in regard to this garden has been accepted by the Commissioner and appears to the Chief Commissioner to be correct.

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

47. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Darrang, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Adabari ...	538	477	19	26	45	35·3	54·5	89·8
	2. Bamgaon ...	266	271	14	8	22	52·6	29·5	82·1
	3. Namgaon ...	418	445	26	36	62	62·2	80·9	143·1
	4. Nahorani ...	570	618	16	29	45	28·0	46 9	74·9
	5. Kalakusi ...	298	297	5	27	32	16·7	90·9	107·6
	6. Briardole ...	62	51	12	2	14	193·5	39·2	232·7
	7. Hathibari ...	470	526	21	24	45	44·6	45·6	90·2
	8. Daputa ...	600	654	22	32	54	36·6	48·9	85·5
	9. Dolupadong ...	643	654	31	25	56	48·2	38·2	86·4
	10. Sadharughop ...	257	253	9	15	24	35·0	59·2	94·2
	11. Gellahating ...	224	211	7	12	19	31·2	56·8	88·0
	12. Ketela	312	282	9	12	21	28·8	42·5	71·3
	13. Borgong ...	262	278	7	24	31	26·7	86·3	113·0
	14. Dikorai ...	528	496	16	23	39	30·3	46·3	76·6
	15. Pabhoi	315	266	13	15	28	41·2	56·4	97·6
	16. Kalain	187	227	16	2	18	85·5	8·8	94·3
Mangaldai	17. Gronland ...	206	185	11	4	15	53·4	21·6	75·0
	Total	6,156	6,191	254	316	570	41·2	51·0	92·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Adabari	10	17	3	1	4	10	45
	2. Bamgaon	1	7	7	...	3	4	22
	3. Namgaon	2	16	7	...	13	24	62
	4. Nahorani	3	11	11	1	6	13	45
	5. Kalakusi	21	6	3	...	...	2	32
	6. Briardole	9	2	...	...	...	3	14
	7. Hathibari	...	12	16	...	10	7	45
	8. Daputa	18	14	1	2	7	12	54
	9. Dolupadong	7	16	7	...	14	12	56
	10. Sadharughop	4	1	4	1	10	4	24
	11. Gellahating	3	3	...	...	8	5	19
	12. Ketela	4	9	...	...	...	8	21
	13. Borgong	...	8	20	...	...	3	31
	14. Dikorai	8	8	4	2	10	7	39
	15. Pabhoi	1	5	...	...	6	16	28
	16. Kalain	1	3	7	2	5	...	18
Mangaldai	17. Gronland	2	2	8	1	...	2	15
	Total	94	140	98	10	96	132	570

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	18. Tarajuli ...	214	222	12	10	22	56·1	45·0	101·1
	19. Solabari ...	109	128	2	8	10	18·3	62·5	80·8
	20. Hulessar ...	118	121	6	4	10	50·8	33·0	83·8
Mangaldai	21. Rontholi ...	140	137	9	2	11	64·3	14·6	78·9
	Total ...	581	608	29	24	53	49·9	39·4	89·3

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	18. Tarajuli	1	1	4	1	3	12	22
	19. Solabari	...	2	1	...	1	6	10
	20. Hulessar	...	3	3	...	...	4	10
Mangaldai.	21. Rontholi	...	1	4	...	...	6	11
	Total	1	7	12	1	4	28	53

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	22. Balipara ...	438	439	19	14	33	43·3	31·8	75·1
	23. Ghoirally ...	397	431	20	23	43	50·3	53·3	103·6
	24. Dhekiajuli ...	473	476	19	67	86	40·1	140·7	180·8
	25. Barpukhuri ...	773	783	35	22	57	45·2	28·1	73·3
	26. Diplonga ...	671	719	19	58	77	28·3	80·6	108·9
	27. Sonajuli ...	1,811	1,979	81	67	148	44·7	33·8	78·5
	28. Dhendai ...	638	716	20	34	54	31·3	47·4	78·7
	29. Belsiri	282	271	37	11	48	131·2	40·6	171·8
	30. Rowta	268	301	18	19	37	67·1	63·1	130·2
Mangaldai.	31. Panbari ...	247	231	29	11	40	117·4	47·6	165·0
	32. Barkala	682	644	51	60	111	74·7	93·1	167·8
	33. Rupital	265	287	24	4	28	90·5	13·9	104·4
	Total	6,945	7,277	372	390	762	53·5	53·5	107·0

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	22. Balipara	9	8	5	4	...	7	33
	23. Ghoirally	6	3	7	16	3	8	46
	24. Dhekiajuli	22	21	8	5	2	28	86
	25. Barpukhuri	9	6	16	5	11	10	57
	26. Diplonga	12	12	8	3	25	17	77
	27. Sonajuli	27	30	24	7	37	23	148
	28. Dhendai	8	8	7	5	4	22	54
	29. Belsiri	32	7	1	3	1	4	48
	30. Rowta	...	3	4	8	2	20	37
Mangaldai.	31. Panbari	19	5	7	1	1	7	40
	32. Barkala	62	17	13	10	1	8	111
	33. Rupital	17	1	9	...	...	1	28
	Total	223	121	109	67	87	155	762

The views expressed by the Deputy Commissioner as to the necessity for holding committees on the gardens unhealthy on Act population are reproduced below with marginal remarks by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts :

(1) *Adabari*—Has been a healthy garden since 1886. The manager is building a new hospital. The site and situation are admirable. I do not think a committee is required.

I have made marginal remarks. Where no remarks occur, I agree with the Deputy Commissioner.—G. G.

(2) *Bamgaon*—Is an excellently managed garden, which has not been on our black list since 1884. It came on the list last year, simply because it was supplied by contractors with coolies unfit for service in Assam.

(3) *Namgaon*.—I think it would be a waste of time to hold a committee on this garden. The manager looks after his coolies very carefully. Water-supply, lines, &c., are all good. The mortality was due chiefly to unpreventible causes.

(4) *Nahorani*—Has the best arrangements for hospital, water-supply, feeding sick coolies, &c., in the whole district. A committee could not possibly suggest any improvements. It is situated in a clearing amidst dense tree jungle, and such gardens are invariably unhealthy for years after they are opened.

(5) *Kalakusi*—Has not been unhealthy since 1882. Its unhealthiness last year was entirely due to cholera. No committee is required.

(6) *Briardole*—Is a small and very healthy garden. It, as well as the surrounding *bastis*, suffered from a very bad outbreak of cholera in the spring of 1892.

(7) *Hathibari*—Adjoins Bamgaon, and is in all respects similar to it. There is absolutely no need to hold a committee.

(8) *Daputa*.—This garden has been unfortunate in its death rate. It was on our black list in 1886, 1887, 1888, and 1890, but it has been importing largely, and the deaths are due, for the most part, to the difficulty North-Western coolies have in becoming acclimatized. I do not think that there is any present need to hold a committee on this garden, but it is one which will have to be watched very carefully.

(8) (9) I think a committee might be held for the benefit of the North-Western Provinces coolies who seem to be doomed to die.
G. G.

(9) *Dolupadong*.—This adjoins Daputa, and the same remarks apply.

(10) *Sadharughop*.—I have already said that it will be necessary to hold a committee on this garden.

I agree.—G. G.

(11) *Gellahating*.—This is the most persistently unhealthy garden in the district. A committee was held on the garden in 1890, but no clue was obtained to the causes of the unhealthiness of the garden. It is a small garden, and it took only 19 deaths to bring it on the black list. I would not recommend a second committee, not, at all

I think a committee should be held.—G. G.

(12) *Ketela.*—This is a very healthy garden. The deaths (17 out of 21) were almost entirely among new coolies. For this the contractors, not the garden, are to blame.

(13) *Borgong.*—This is not an unhealthy garden for acclimatized coolies. It closely resembles Ketela, and the deaths were almost entirely among newly imported coolies.

(14) *Dikorai.*—The same remarks apply ; 21 out of 39 deaths were among newly imported coolies.

(15) *Pabhoi*—Adjoins Dikorai, and is in all respects similar to it.

(16) *Kalain*—Is an out-garden of Nahorani (*q.v.*). It would be a waste of time to hold a committee on this garden.

(17) *Gronland*—A Mangaldai garden. This garden has not been unhealthy since 1884. It is a small garden, and suffered from cholera. There is absolutely no occasion to hold a committee.

The Deputy Commissioner is of course completely wrong in thinking that mortality, if due to the importation of bad batches of new coolies, absolves managers from blame and from liability to committees under the Act ; and the Commissioner has been requested to inform that officer accordingly, and to invite his particular attention to the orders recently issued, to which reference is made in paragraph 43 of this report. As regards the treatment of the gardens unhealthy on the Act population for 1892, the Chief Commissioner thinks that for the present, at all events, it will suffice to act upon the recommendations of the Commissioner, and these have accordingly been approved.

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

48. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Nowgong, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

—	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1	Siconi	132	122	7	3	10	53·0	24·6	77·6
2	Borghat	103	106	6	4	10	58·3	37·7	96·0
3	Amlokhi	483	518	15	24	39	31·1	46·3	77·4
	Total	718	746	28	31	59	39·1	41·5	80·6

Causes of Deaths (Act).

—	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
1	Siconi	1	3	1	...	2	3	10
2	Borghat	4	2	...	...	...	4	10
3	Amlokhi	7	6	3	2	1	20	39
	Total.	12	11	4	2	3	27	59

Unhealthy on Non-Act Population.

—	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
4	Sokunbari	526	553	33	23	56	62·7	41·5	104·2
5	Balijuri	195	188	11	6	17	56·4	31·9	88·3
6	Old Salona	171	186	7	8	15	40·9	43·0	83·9
	Total	892	927	51	37	88	57·2	39·9	97·1

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

—	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
4	Sokunbari	3	9	...	...	...	44	56
5	Balijuri	...	3	1	2	...	11	17
6	Old Salona	3	9	...	...	...	3	15
	Total	6	21	1	2	...	58	88

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

—	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
7	Palkhoi	211	208	17	9	26	80·6	43·3	123·9
8	Udmari	378	388	26	9	35	68·8	23·2	92·0
9	Nonai	214	221	5	17	22	23·4	76·9	100·3
10	Rangamati	612	639	17	29	46	27·8	45·4	73·2
11	Killing	419	498	18	26	44	43·0	52·2	95·2
	Total	1,834	1,954	83	90	173	45·2	46·0	91·2

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

—	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
7	Pafkhoi	...	...	7	...	2	17	26
8	Udmari	9	4	8	...	2	12	35
9	Nonai	...	6	...	...	...	16	22
10	Rangamati	6	21	...	...	...	19	46
11	Killing	3	12	1	...	...	28	44
	Total	18	43	16	...	4	92	173

The following is the Deputy Commissioner's report in regard to the holding of committees on the gardens unhealthy on Act population, with marginal remarks by the Commissioner :

(1) *Siconi.*—Death rate for 1892 was Act coolies 7·76, non-Act 5·88. This garden was not on the black list for Act coolies in 1890-91, but the death rate for non-Act coolies was 7·69 in 1891. In 1889 it was on the black list with a death rate of 17·91 amongst Act coolies and 6·91 amongst non-Act. The garden suffered considerably from an epidemic of influenza in March 1892. I inspected this garden in company with the Civil Surgeon, and am of opinion that if the suggestions which have been communicated to the manager be carried out, there will be a considerable improvement in its healthiness. I do not recommend a committee unless the mortality for 1893 is over 7 per cent.

As the high death rate was due to a sort of epidemic, I would not hold a committee.
G. G.

(2) *Borghat.*—Death rate in 1892 was Act 9·60, non-Act 2·06. It was healthy last year; unhealthy for Act coolies in 1890, and healthy in 1889. The garden is well cared for, and health conditions good. The mortality appears to have been unavoidable. I do not consider a committee necessary unless there is a high mortality during the current year.

The number of deaths amongst Act coolies was exactly 10, non-Act also 10. As the garden was healthy last year, I would not recommend a committee.
G. G.

(3) *Amlokhi.*—Death rate—Act coolies 7·74, non-Act coolies 3·87. This garden was not on the black list in past two years, but in 1889 had a heavy death rate of 16·5 amongst Act coolies and 5·5 amongst non-Act. The mortality in 1892 was principally due to sickness amongst Ganjami coolies. The class of coolies imported appears to be quite unsuitable, and should no longer be recruited. Various suggestions have been made and communicated to the manager; and should they be speedily carried out, the health of the garden should improve. If, however, the figures for the current year show a death rate of over 7 per cent., a committee should be called on the garden.

It seems necessary to hold a committee for the purpose, at any rate, of declaring the estate unfit for the residence of a particular class of labourers (Ganjamis).
G. G.

The Chief Commissioner considers that it will suffice to adopt the recommendations made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and a committee will accordingly be held on the Amlokhi garden.

49. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Sibságar, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Teok	270	315	15	6	21	55·5	19·0	74·5
	2. Domerdalang ...	493	443	20	24	44	40·5	54·1	94·6
	3. Mohkunti	171	150	2	11	13	11·6	73·3	84·9
	4. Athabari	94	110	6	7	13	63·8	63·6	127·4
	5. Diroibari	90	98	4	7	11	44·4	71·4	115·8
	6. Mazenga	678	682	27	36	63	39·8	52·7	92·5
	7. Halwating	286	280	8	19	27	27·9	67·8	95·7
	8. Tiphuk	430	437	18	21	39	41·8	48·0	89·8
Jorhát ...	9. Hatichungi ...	269	262	12	13	25	44·6	49·6	94·2
	10. Cinnamara ...	698	678	34	56	90	48·7	82·5	131·2
	11. Daklangia	239	236	10	11	21	41·8	46·6	88·4
	12. Naginijan	161	164	10	3	13	62·1	18·2	80·3
Golághát ...	13. Bihora	317	347	14	14	28	44·1	40·3	84·4
	14. Duria	255	282	9	13	22	35·2	46·0	81·2
	15. Mohima	392	347	14	26	40	35·7	74·9	110·6
	Total	4,843	4,831	203	267	470	41·9	55·2	97·1

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Teok	5	7	1	...	...	8	21
	2. Domerdalang	12	11	1	5	...	15	44
	3. Mohkunti	...	1	2	2	3	5	15
	4. Athabari	1	1	1	1	4	5	13
	5. Diroibari	4	...	3	...	3	1	11
	6. Mazenga	11	1	7	...	6	38	63
	7. Halwating	3	3	3	...	7	11	27
	8. Tiphuk	11	9	7	...	3	9	39
Jorhát ...	9. Hatichungi	2	6	3	...	4	10	25
	10. Cinnamara	9	22	8	...	20	31	90
	11. Daklangia	...	6	2	7	...	6	21
	12. Naginijan	1	2	1	...	1	8	13
Golághát	13. Bihora	2	3	...	1	...	22	28
	14. Duria	...	10	1	...	...	11	22
	15. Mohima	3	5	...	7	...	25	40
	Total	64	87	40	23	51	205	470

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	16. Napuk ...	254	255	12	15	27	47·2	58·8	106·0
Jorhát ...	17. Holunguri ...	676	692	36	14	50	53·2	20·2	73·4
Golághát ...	18. Letekujan ...	1,199	1,207	49	44	93	40·8	36·4	77·2
	Total ...	2,129	2,154	97	73	170	45·5	33·8	79·3

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	16. Nanuk	6	2	5	...	10	4	27
Jorhát ...	17. Holungari	1	...	8	1	1	39	50
Golághát ...	18. Letekujan	8	42	7	2	2	32	93
	Total	15	44	20	3	13	75	170

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	19. Banfera ...	818	567	22	40	62	26·8	70·5	97·3
	20. Jaboka ...	633	805	51	36	87	80·5	44·7	125·2
	21. Taukak ...	857	903	34	28	62	39·6	31·0	70·6
	22. Singlo ...	104	106	7	3	10	67·3	28·3	95·6
	23. Mybella ...	215	204	13	3	16	60·4	14·7	75·1
	24. Bihubar ...	748	849	63	60	123	84·2	70·6	154·8
	25. Maduri ...	332	287	13	30	43	39·1	104·5	143·6
Jorhát ...	26. Dehingapar ...	556	529	37	11	48	66·5	20·0	86·5
	27. Dhekiajuli ...	760	742	18	42	60	23·6	56·6	80·2
	28. Gariahabi ...	355	371	20	12	32	56·3	32·5	88·6
	29. Kheremia ...	184	161	10	3	13	54·3	18·6	72·9
	30. Deering and Halwa ..	258	250	9	12	21	34·8	48·0	82·8
	31. Halmira ...	714	724	23	36	59	32·2	49·7	81·9
	32. Chotojan ...	105	122	6	7	13	57·1	57·3	114·4
	Total ...	6,639	6,640	326	323	649	49·1	48·6	97·7

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	19. Banfera	8	26	1	7	4	16	62
	20. Jaboka	45	4	5	2	18	13	87
	21. Taukak	7	16	6	1	2	30	62
	22. Singlo	1	1	...	...	3	5	10
	23. Mybella	8	1	...	...	2	5	16
	24. Bihubar	58	22	10	3	6	24	123
	25. Maduri	3	11	8	...	8	13	43
Jorhát ...	26. Dehingapar ...	14	3	2	1	1	27	48
	27. Dhekiajuli	1	31	5	5	1	17	60
	28. Gariahabi	2	20	1	1	1	7	32
	29. Kheremia	...	2	...	...	1	10	13
	30. Deering and Halwa ...	2	3	4	1	...	11	21
	31. Halmira	9	27	6	1	...	16	59
	32. Chotojan	2	...	7	...	...	4	13
	Total	160	167	55	22	47	198	649

As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population, the following is the report of the Deputy Commissioner regarding the necessity for holding committees, with marginal remarks by the Commissioner :

Unh[illegible] Non-Act deaths, I think not properly reported; probably Act deaths not fully reported. Water-supply defective. I think a committee should be held.—G. G.

(1) *Teok.*—The garden was not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reports that since last inspection new lines have been built, and a *pucca* well has been sunk.

Committee not necessary.—G. G.

(2) *Domerdalang.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reports that the jungle has been cleared round the new lines, and that the water-supply is now good. I inspected this garden lately. It has not been unhealthy so far this year, and its sanitary condition is satisfactory.

Committee not required.—G. G.

(3) *Mahkunli.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reported that most of the deaths are those of newly-imported coolies. I inspected this garden lately. It has not been unhealthy this year, and the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

No order can be passed in absence of Civil Surgeon's inspection-report.—G. G.

(4) *Athabari.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon has not yet inspected this garden. He has been asked to do so as soon as possible.

(5) *Diroibari.*— Ditto ditto ditto.

Death rate hitherto low. Committee not required.—G. G.

(6) *Mazenga.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"This garden has always been a healthy one, and for this reason weakly coolies have been sent to it. The coolies are well looked after by the manager, who seems to take a great interest in them."

Just escaped in 1890 and 1891. I do not recommend a committee at present.—G. G.

(7) *Halwating.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. From the Civil Surgeon's report it appears that the houses in the lines have been provided with high plinths, and drains have been cut to make the drainage effective. It appears that the sanitary condition of the garden is not yet quite satisfactory, but until the manager has had an opportunity of carrying out the Civil Surgeon's recommendations, I do not think a committee is necessary.

Escaped in 1890-91. This and Halwating should be watched with reference to mortality of first half of 1893.—G. G.

(8) *Tiphuk.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. Excluding cholera, the Act death rate has been 6·5 per cent. only in 1892. The garden is usually a healthy one, but has suffered from a bad class of coolie lately.

Just escaped in 1890. Committee should be held.—G. G.

(9) *Hatichungi*—Was unhealthy in 1891 on Act and non-Act coolies together. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"The unhealthiness of this garden seems to be due to a bad lot of coolies received in 1891." * * * "The sanitary arrangements are good."

Death rate (non-Act) evidently not properly registered, 0% is absurd. Probably death rate (Act) is under the real figure. Certainly a committee should be held.—G. G.

(10) *Cinnamara*—Was unhealthy in 1891 on Act coolies. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"The water-supply and sanitary arrangements are good. * * * The coolies that have been imported are inferior and of poor physique, and the manager ought to have returned them on or immediately after arrival on the garden." This report does not show that the estate is not a fit place for the residence of labourers, and there are therefore no grounds for holding a committee.

Committee not required.—G. G.

(11) *Daklangia.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. It appears that of 21 Act deaths in 1892, 8 were due to influenza, which is not attributable to the unhealthiness of the garden.

Hitherto a healthy garden. Committee not required.—G. G.

(12) *Naginijan.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. Civil Surgeon reports that "the water and sanitary arrangements are very satisfactory."

Should be watched on results of first half of 1893. No committee required at present.

G. G.

(13) *Bihora.*—Not unhealthy on Act coolies in 1891. From the Civil Surgeon's report of his inspection made on the 15th March 1893, it appears that new lines have been built, as recommended by his predecessor in 1892. He adds—"The manager has been unlucky in getting such a bad class of coolies."

Death rate 8·12 (Act), 1890 6·31, 1891 5·49 ; both pretty high. I would make committee dependent on results of first half of 1893.

G. G.

(14) *Duria.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. Act death rate in 1892 has been a little over 8 per cent. The Civil Surgeon reports :—"The manager is very careful, and does his best to keep surroundings free of dirt." Certain recommendations are made with regard to the latrines, which, I think, the manager should be given an opportunity of carrying out.

The mortality was appalling, and was due to absolute recklessness in importing last year, i.e., 1891. The garden had a mortality of 11·06 (Act). I would make committee dependent on results of first half of 1893.—G. G.

(15) *Mohima.*—Not unhealthy in 1891. The Civil Surgeon's report of his inspection held on the 20th March 1893 shows that the sanitary arrangements on the garden were unsatisfactory, but considerable improvements have been and are being made by the new manager. The Commissioner does not, therefore, consider that it is necessary to hold a committee.

It is clear from the above that the Deputy Commissioner is not sufficiently alive to the necessity for enforcing the provisions of the Act in the case of unhealthy gardens, and his particular attention has been called to the orders recently issued, to which reference is made in paragraph 43 of this report. As regards the treatment of the gardens in the Sibságar district unhealthy on Act population during the year under report, the Chief Commissioner has accepted the recommendations of the Commissioner

as sufficient, and committees will accordingly be held on the Teok, Hatichungi, and Cinnamara gardens. In the case of gardens which the Commissioner considers should be carefully watched, or in regard to which Mr. Godfrey recommends that the holding of committees should be made dependent on the results for the first half-year of 1893, the Chief Commissioner has directed committees to be held in all such cases where the mortality for the first half-year of 1893 exceeds 4 per cent. of the Act population, unless a sufficiently strong case is, in the opinion of the Commissioner, made out for not so doing in any particular instance. Action will be taken accordingly in regard to the Halwating, Tiphuk, Bihora, Duria, and Mohima gardens.

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

50. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	1. Khanikar ...	96	105	8	4	12	83·3	38·0	121·3
	2. Borbari	162	156	9	3	12	55·5	19·2	74·7
	3. Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita head-quarter ...	236	303	7	13	20	29·6	42·9	72·5
	4. Hilika	1,159	1,194	28	78	106	24·1	65·3	89·4
	5. Pohukatta ...	123	106	4	6	10	32·5	56·6	89·1
	6. Dikhari	128	101	5	10	15	39·0	99·0	138·0
	7. Balijan (Tengakhat)...	388	410	15	34	49	38·6	82·9	121·5
	8. Mesaijan	519	578	17	27	44	32·7	46·7	79·4
	9. Makum Tea Company .	539	698	43	47	90	79·7	67·3	147·0
	10. Chaukidingi ...	119	135	5	10	15	42·0	74·0	116·0
	11. Sealkati	537	614	25	25	50	46·5	40·7	87·2
North Lakhimpur ...	12. Hulmari	374	368	4	27	31	10·6	73·3	83·9
	Total	4,380	4,768	170	284	454	38·8	59·5	98·3

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	1. Khanikar	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	10	12
	2. Borbari	3	1	.....	.....	.....	8	12
	3. Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita head-quarter	13	1	1	.....	.....	5	20
	4. Hilika	17	57	7	2	8	15	106
	5. Pohukatta	3	3	.....	.....	3	1	10
	6. Dikhari	.....	3	1	.....	10	1	15
	7. Balijan (Tengakhat) ...	5	12	4	.....	17	11	49
	8. Mesaijan	4	15	4	.....	8	13	44
	9. Makum Tea Company...	25	24	.....	.....	5	36	90
	10. Chaukidingi ...	3	6	.....	.....	1	5	15
	11. Sealkati	8	12	.....	.....	13	17	50
North Lakhimpur ...	12. Hulmari	.....	19	3	.....	2	7	31
	Total	81	153	20	2	69	129	454

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	13. Titademaru ...	107	102	5	6	11	46·7	58·8	105·5
	14. Dinjan ...	549	555	15	26	41	27·3	46·8	74·1
	15. Bishakupi ...	870	829	29	33	62	33·3	39·8	73·1
North Lakhimpur ...	16. Pathalipam ...	447	483	17	20	37	38·0	41·4	79·4
	Total ...	1,973	1,969	66	85	151	33·4	43·1	76·5

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	13. Titademaru ...	1	2	1	...	3	4	11
	14. Dinjan ...	2	15	8	...	5	11	41
	15. Bishakupi ...	4	14	1	6	2	35	62
North Lakhimpur ...	16. Pathalipam ...	2	10	3	4	5	13	37
	Total ...	9	41	13	10	15	63	151

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	17. Longsoal... ...	277	318	17	19	36	61·4	59·7	121·1
	18. Assam Railway and Trading Company, Ledo	1,038	1,058	60	92	152	57·8	86·9	144·7
	19. Ditto ditto Tikhak...	407	384	26	29	55	63·8	75·5	139·3
	20. Hugrijan... ...	1,208	1,209	33	65	98	27·3	53·7	81·0
	21. Kehang	592	622	25	22	47	42·2	35·3	77·5
	22. Phukanbari ...	169	244	4	27	31	23·6	110·6	134·2
	23. Samdang... ...	664	673	24	24	48	36·1	35·6	71·7
	24. Lengrai Division ...	254	334	16	29	45	62·9	86·8	149·7
	Total	4,609	4,842	205	307	512	44·4	62·4	107·0

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Dropsy.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	17. Longsoal	2	20	3	2	2	7	36
	18. Assam Railway and Trading Company, Ledo	73	21	.....	.....	5	53	152
	19. Ditto ditto Tikhak ...	13	6	4	.....	.....	32	55
	20. Hugrijan	20	11	3	.....	15	49	98
	21. Kehang	2	8	7	.....	8	22	47
	22. Phukanbari ...	11	8	4	.....	1	7	31
	23. Samdang	10	23	1	1	4	9	48
	24. Lengrai Division ...	7	20	.....	1	7	10	45
	Total	138	117	22	4	42	189	512

As regards gardens unhealthy on the Act population only, the Deputy Commissioner's report with marginal remarks by Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, is given below :

(1) *Khanikar.*—This garden was unhealthy on Act population in 1889-90 and again in 1892. Recommendations made as regards conservancy and hospital have not been carried out. I think a committee should be held.

I agree.—G. G.

(2) *Borbari.*—As the garden appears in the list for the first time, and the rate of mortality is only slightly over 7 per cent. (7·47), I do not consider it necessary to call a committee.

Committee not necessary.—G. G.

(3) *Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita.*—The rate is not much over 7 per cent. I think a committee might be held, especially if one is held on the Makum tea estate, when the same committee could deal with both.

Yes.—G. G.

(4) *Hilika.*—This garden adjoins Hukanguri, on which a committee was held in 1891. It is one of the largest gardens in the district; and in view of the high death rate (8·94), I am of opinion that a committee should be held on it.

Yes.—G. G.

(5) *Pohukatta.*—This is a small garden, and appears on the list for the first time. It will be sufficient if it be inspected again and recommendations enforced.

I agree.—G. G.

(6) *Dikhari.*—A committee should be held on this garden.

I agree.—G. G.

(7) *Balijan (Tengakhat).*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1889-90, and a committee should be held.

Yes.—G. G.

(8) *Mesaijan.*—The rate is not much over 7 per cent. The garden has lately been taken over by the Dumduma Tea Company, and I am assured every effort is being made to reduce the mortality. I do not propose to hold a committee.

It might be allowed another chance.—G. G.

(9) *Makum Tea Estate.*—There has been a very serious outbreak of cholera lately, and the death rate will be still higher this year. The Civil Surgeon is now absent inspecting this garden, and I await his report.

Civil Surgeon's report may be awaited. G. G.

(10) *Chaukidingi.*—This is ordinarily a healthy garden, and I do not propose to hold a committee.

(11) *Sealkati*—Was unhealthy in 1887, 1888, and 1889. This seems to be a case for a committee.

Yes.—G. G.

(12) *Hulmari.*—This garden has a bad record. It has been especially inspected by the Civil Surgeon. It is in North Lakhimpur, and to hold a committee would involve the absence of the Civil Surgeon and myself for a week or ten days from headquarters. I will watch the garden carefully, and inspect it a second time if possible.

I think a committee should be held.—G. G.

The Chief Commissioner has accepted as sufficient the recommendations made by the Commissioner subject to further report in regard to the Makum tea estate, and committees will be held accordingly on the Khanikar, Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margherita, Hilika, Dikhari, Balijan, Sealkati, and Hulmari gardens. The Chief Commissioner has further, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 128A(*b*) of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, directed the Deputy Commissioner to summon committees on the Ledo and Tikhak coal mines of the Assam Railway and Trading Company, where the mortality has been excessive and such as fully to justify and require this step.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns.

51. The number of gardens shown in the inspection registers decreased, during the year under report, from 872 to 867, and the number submitting returns from 778 to 763. The number of gardens on the registers which employed Act labourers increased from 627 in the previous year to 633 ; but the number of non-Act gardens decreased, in the case of gardens employing over 50 coolies, from 127 to 110, and in the case of gardens employing less than 50 coolies, from 24 to 21. Managers were again backward in the Cachar district in submitting returns, the last amended return having been received as late as the 17th March 1893, but no prosecutions were undertaken. Great delay also occurred in other districts, with the result that considerable inconvenience was experienced in some cases. Where, as is the case in Cachar and possibly elsewhere also, persistent neglect is shown year after year by managers in supplying by the due date the necessary returns or explanations which may be required in connection therewith, no hesitation should be felt in undertaking prosecutions under the provisions of the Act. For any such result the managers concerned would have only themselves to thank, and the time has clearly come when the laxity, which has hitherto been shown in regard to this matter, should no longer be overlooked in the absence of sufficient explanation.

Classification of gardens according to the coolies employed and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

52. The following statement shows the number of gardens, classified district by district, according to the class of coolies employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number visited by inspecting officers :

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.
Number of gardens	146	34	..	6	186	72	46	1	..	119	12	6	2	30	50	72	5	3	10	90
„ sending returns 50 and	146	34	..	..	180	72	46	..	..	118	12	6	2	..	20	72	5	3	..	80
„ 51 inspected once ..	128	28	..	..	156	64	42	..	..	106	5	5	2	..	12	47	3	..	..	50
„ „ twice ..	13	..	..	..	13	8	4	..	..	12	5	1	..	..	6	17	1	..	..	18
„ „ thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	7
„ „ four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1892	141	28	..	..	169	72	46	..	..	118	10	6	2	..	18	71	4	..	..	75
„ „ „ „ *1891*	*119*	*26*	..	..	*146*	*68*	*48*	..	..	*116*	*12*	*5*	*1*	..	*18*	*71*	*5*	..	..	*76*

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act. Over 50.	Non-Act. Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.
Number of gardens	36	9	3	8	56	170	8	11	34	223	125	2	1	15	143	633	110	21	103	867
„ sending returns 50 and 51	36	9	3	..	48	170	8	11	..	189	125	2	1	..	128	633	110	20	..	763
„ inspected once ..	27	8	2	..	37	159	8	..	..	167	122	2	1	..	125	552	96	5	..	653
„ „ twice ..	9	1	..	..	10	11	..	..	..	11	2	..	..	..	2	65	7	..	..	72
„ „ thrice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	8
„ „ four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1892	36	9	2	..	47	170	8	..	..	178	125	2	1	..	128	625	103	25	103	733
„ „ „ „ *1891*	*27*	*15*	..	..	*42*	*164*	*15*	*4*	..	*183*	*129*	*2*	*2*	..	*133*	*590*	*116*	*7*	..	*713*

The above figures show a fairly satisfactory increase in the amount of inspection work performed during the year under report, 733 gardens having been inspected, against 713 in the previous year ; but the results were not as good as in 1890, when 748 gardens were inspected. A similar result is shown in regard to the number of gardens inspected twice, which increased from 63 in the previous year to 72. The number of gardens inspected three or four times was 8 and *nil*, against 5 and 3 respectively during 1891.

In Cachar, of 180 gardens liable to inspection, 169 were inspected, leaving a balance of 11 uninspected gardens. Of the uninspected gardens, 5 have since been inspected and the others will be inspected shortly ; but no reason is given why all the gardens liable to inspection were not inspected during the year. In Sylhet all gardens liable to inspection were inspected during the year, and the only garden remaining uninspected was a small garden employing less than 50 non-Act coolies. In regard to the two gardens of those liable to inspection which remained uninspected in Kámrúp, the Deputy Commissioner explains that one passed off the inspection register during the second half of the year, as there were no coolies on the garden. The other uninspected garden was a small and healthy one, and has been inspected since the close of the year. In Darrang two gardens liable to inspection remained uninspected. Of these, one was a newly-opened garden, and the other was a small garden on which no Act labour is employed. In Nowgong all the gardens liable to inspection were duly inspected, and the only garden which remained uninspected was a small one employing less than 50 non-Act coolies. In Sibságar all the gardens liable to inspection were inspected, and only 11 small non-Act gardens employing less than 50 coolies remained uninspected. Similarly, in Lakhimpur all gardens liable to inspection were inspected.

The following figures show the number of gardens inspected by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Civil Surgeons, and other inspecting agency :

	Deputy Commissioners.		Assistant Commissioners.		Civil Surgeons.		Other inspecting agency.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Cachar ...	30	36	15	21	49	66	54	59
Sylhet ...	2	16	...	90	12	14	...	9
Kámrúp ...	17	13	...	...	9	11	...	...
Darrang ...	20	27	...	10	...	38	...	24
Nowgong ...	4	24	...	...	24	14	14	9
Sibságar ...	29	47	91	92	27	22	62	28
Lakhimpur ...	41	47	49	52	40	28	33	5

Looking at the results as a whole, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion that the work of inspection was well carried out throughout the province except in the Cachar district, and that a sufficient amount of inspection work was performed in all cases by Deputy Commissioners. In last year's report reference was made to certain proposals which the Chief Commissioner had laid before the Government of India in connection with the future performance of inspection work with the object of relieving the district staff so far as is possible. No orders having been received on these proposals, and as the Chief Commissioner is anxious to introduce them without further delay, the Government of India have recently been again addressed on the subject.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

53. In spite of two somewhat serious cases in which collisions occurred during the year, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that the relations between employers and labourers have, on the whole, been satisfactory. One of the cases above referred to, which occurred on the Kalacherra garden, was of a serious type, and the manager to whom, however, no blame seems to attach, had a narrow escape of losing his life. Eight coolies were sent up for trial in connection with this case, all of whom were convicted of rioting, and three were sentenced to six months' and the remainder to four months' rigorous imprisonment. These sentences were upheld on appeal. In Sylhet the Deputy Commissioner reports that the relations between employers and labourers were satisfactory in all subdivisions except in the Sadr subdivision and in Karimganj, where three or four cases of collision occurred. These cases, however, do not call for detailed notice. No special remarks under this head are called for in regard to the Kámrúp, Darrang, and Nowgong districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports as follows :

Under this head I cite the following cases :

Mr. C. O. Walling, manager of the Maduri tea estate, was convicted of wrongful restraint under section 341 and simple assault under section 352, Indian Penal Code, and was sentenced to a week's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100. The complainant was a coolie girl, about fifteen years of age, whose story was as follows :

Walling had previously made indecent overtures to her, and early in September 1891 she was working with two other girls in the bath-room of his house, plastering the wall, when Walling came in from his work about midday, and called her into his bed-room. She refused to go. Walling then

went into the bath-room, and hit her over her shoulders with a cane. He said that he had not wanted her to take her *izzat*, but required her to fan him. She was afterwards detained in the bath-room, in charge of a bearer boy of twelve, when the other girls went away for their midday meal and rest, and in the evening was made over to her mother. For weeks after that she and her mother, who had given information of the illtreatment at the thána, were kept under observation. In December the advances previously made to her were renewed by Walling, who caught hold of her in the garden, and tried to make her go with him to the bungalow. She promised to go later, but ran away to a friend's house, and afterwards appeared before a magistrate, with the result that Walling was prosecuted on charges under sections 323, 342, and 354 of the Indian Penal Code before a jury consisting of three Europeans and two Natives, who convicted him as above.

One Gujana Uraon, a coolie of the Taukak tea estate, laid an information at the Sonari outpost against the manager, Mr. Horrocks, stating that he had severely kicked informant's son, Sanichar, so as to endanger his life. On the head constable proceeding to enquire, Sanichar was found in an apparently moribund condition, but without mark of any external injury. The head constable telegraphed to Sibságar, and I at once deputed Mr. Kemp, Inspector in charge of the District Police, and the hospital assistant, who was then in civil medical charge of the district, to the garden. In the meanwhile, fortunately a European medical man, Dr. Forbes, M.D., was called in by the manager, and he found that Sanichar was suffering from the effects of *dhatura* poisoning. A quantity of *dhatura* leaves was found in his house. He was subsequently brought into Sibságar, and examined by Dr. Manifold, Civil Surgeon, who had arrived in the meanwhile and who confirmed Dr. Forbes' opinion that the man was not suffering from any internal injury caused by violence, and that his symptoms were such as might be produced by *dhatura* poisoning. The complaint was dismissed as false, and Gujana and Sanichar were prosecuted under sections 193 and 211 of the Indian Penal Code before Rai Joges Chandra. Chaturji Bahadur, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who convicted them under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code, and sentenced them to one year's rigorous imprisonment. The result of the case showed that Mr. Horrocks had administered a slap to Sanichar for disobeying an order, but that the story of his having kicked him severely so as to cause serious injury was entirely false. It was evident that the serious condition in which Sanichar was found was produced by *dhatura* poisoning, though the Extra Assistant Commissioner was not sure whether the *dhatura* was administered medicinally or deliberately with the object of fabricating false evidence. At any rate, the results which it produced were made use of for the purpose of instituting a grave and unfounded charge.

One Bondu, a non-agreement coolie of the Dhuli garden, wanted to leave the garden and to go to his country. Hearing this, Mr. Congdon, the manager, called him, and told him to give an agreement. He also asked the coolie to give to him the money he had which he (Mr. Congdon) promised to take care of. On Bondu refusing, Mr. Congdon gave him twenty-five stripes over his buttocks. The coolie was then sent to Nagajanka, 8½ or 9 miles distant from Dhuli, and a chaukidár was ordered to sleep with him for fear of his escaping. He was subsequently taken back to Dhuli, where he was kept at night in a house in charge of Mahes chaukidár, being taken out to work in the day time. After he had been kept in this way for a week, on the 13th September he managed to come to Jorhát, and complained to the Assistant Commissioner. Mr. Congdon was prosecuted, and fined by the Assistant Commissioner Rs. 100 under section 323 and Rs. 300 under sections 342 and 109 of the Indian Penal Code. Mahes chaukidár was also prosecuted, and fined Rs. 50 under section 342, Indian Penal Code.

One morning all the male coolies of the Sapakati tea garden went out to do *ticca* hoeing work and the females to pluck leaf. In the afternoon as the women did not come out to work at the proper time, the manager, Munshi Abdul Biswas, ordered the sardárs to make them do hoeing, as the time for leaf-plucking was late. In the afternoon the manager was standing in front of the hospital, when a number of the coolies set upon him and beat him severely, so that he was left unconscious on the floor with bleeding wounds and marks. Three of the accused were rigorously imprisoned for eight months, three for six months, and five for three months each, and all of them were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 each.

On 6th February 1892, Mr. Smith, manager of the Barhalla tea estate, ordered some coolies to take away to the lines a coolie, named Harilas, who was making a disturbance at the time of distributing pay. At this Harilas called out to the other coolies "to seize Mr. Smith." The coolies then threw pieces of broken bricks and dry clay at Mr. Smith and his assistant. Mr. Smith was twice hit with the clods. The accused Harilas and a coolie, named Mohoria, were sentenced to three months' and four other coolies, Lalu, Kali, Phago, and Joynath, to one and a half months' rigorous imprisonment each.

Three Kachari coolies, Melia, Gela, and Aghan, of the Hatikuli garden, with forty others, surrounded the garden muharrir (Isesvar Sarma) and the manager (Mr. Craig), and threatened by gesture to assault them if they would not give them *ticca* work. The three accused were punished with rigorous imprisonment for two weeks each.

Mr. Young Craig, manager of the Hatikuli garden, was fined Rs. 10 under section 352, Indian Penal Code, for assaulting Gopal Rajoár, a coolie of the garden, who kept a cart in which he used to convey goods for the garden. Mr. Craig had been irritated by the man's refusing to work the cart on the plea that the bullocks were ill.

As stated above, the offences of which Mr. Walling was convicted in 1892 were committed in the previous year. With the one exception of Mr. Congdon's case, the year has been happily free from the cases of serious oppression by planters, for which the district had become somewhat conspicuous. This is due to the principal offenders having left the district, and Mr. Congdon has also now left. On the other hand, there have been a good many instances during the year of false and frivolous complaints instituted by coolies against their employers. Mr. Horrocks' case was a very gross one, in which that gentleman narrowly escaped being prosecuted on a false charge of culpable homicide. I think the institution of these cases may reasonably be attributed to the convictions had against certain planters in the district during recent years. In this way the misconduct of a few individuals causes serious injury to the whole planting community.

One device which has been resorted to by coolies of a few gardens in the Sadr subdivision deserves special mention. It is that of coming into the headquarters in a body to the number of 100 or 200 on the pretext of making some complaint. This manœuvre, which it is somewhat difficult to deal with effectually, was adopted in four cases during the year, but in one instance it was justified. In the case in question a large number of the coolies of the Nahorhabi garden came in to complain that they had not received their wages for four months, and this was found to be the fact. The case was specially reported on.

In Lakhimpur the Deputy Commissioner reports that the relations between employers and labourers were generally satisfactory, though some cases of collision occurred between employers and labourers. The more important of these cases are thus described in the district report:

The manager of the Tiphuk tea estate complained that a gang of about thirty Ganjamese of his garden struck work, and left the garden. A chaukidár was sent after them to persuade them to return to the garden. He was beaten by the coolies. After beating the chaukidár and going armed in a riotous manner down to Panitola, these coolies attempted to attack their manager. Five of the ringleaders were prosecuted and punished under sections 143 and 323 with rigorous imprisonment for two months each. Three of the same accused were sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each under section 323, Indian Penal Code, for assaulting the chaukidár above alluded to.

In another case a gang of coolies of the Khobang tea estate assaulted and beat the head and *hazira* muharrirs of the garden, because they got short wages and thought that the muharrirs were responsible. These coolies behaved in a riotous manner; and had not the muharrirs fled, they might have killed them. The evidence for the defence disclosed that the muharrirs were not in the habit of cutting down *haziris* of coolies or illtreating them. The accused, eight in number, were punished, and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each.

In one case the clerk of the Oaklands garden was beaten on his way from Dibrugarh by six coolies of the garden who were lying in wait for him. No cause was shown, and the accused were sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for three months each. In another case the sardár of a garden was beaten by some six coolies of the garden. In this case also no cause was shown for the assault committed. The accused were rigorously imprisoned for six weeks each.

Four cases under section 352 need only be mentioned. In one of these cases some coolies of the Moran Tea Company left the garden to come to Dibrugarh to complain about hard work and oppression. They had no intention to assault any one; but when the muharrir followed them and tried to induce them to go back to the garden, they assaulted him. He was severely beaten by the coolies. The magistrate thought that the assault was unpremeditated, and that a heavy punishment was not necessary. Nine of the coolies were convicted under section 352, three were imprisoned for five weeks each, and the others were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 each.

In another case the manager of the Makum tea estate met at the Tinsukia railway station a coolie who had deserted and been caught at Jaipur, and who was suspected of having persuaded other coolies to desert. He struck the coolie; and as no justification for the assault was proved, the accused was fined Rs. 30. In another case the clerk of a garden beat a woman, and was fined Rs. 5. In the fourth case an assistant manager in the North Lakhimpur subdivision was assaulted by four coolies of his garden. One of the coolies was ordered to do some work which he refused to do. The assistant then got hold of him, and wanted to lead him to the manager; but the coolie resisted, encircled the assistant, and called out to the other accused for help. They came, and attempted to strike the assistant. The chief accused was imprisoned for three months, and the others were imprisoned for six weeks each under section 500 of the Indian Penal Code. A coolie woman charged the manager of Bokel tea estate with having assaulted her because she refused to visit him for immoral purposes. Her case was dismissed, and the manager prosecuted her for defamation. She was found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 15.

Relations between the garden population and the villagers.

54. As a general rule, the relations between the garden population and the natives of the country continued to be quite satisfactory, each deriving considerable benefit from the other. An unusual case occurred in the Sibságar district, the following particulars of which are given by the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Monahan):

A remarkable case occurred at Mohima in Golághát subdivision, which arose out of a dispute between the owner of the Mohima garden and the neighbouring villagers, who had opposed his application for a waste land lease. A party of the villagers attacked and assaulted Mr. Clark, assistant manager of the garden, and immediately afterwards one of them, Khabar Ahom, laid an information before the police, charging Mihiram, a garden muharrir, with setting fire to his (informant's) house at Mr. Clark's instigation. On enquiry it was found that the charge of arson was entirely false. The villagers who had committed the riot were convicted and sentenced to nine months' rigorous imprisonment, and the man Khabar Ahom was prosecuted under section 211, Indian Penal Code, and, being convicted, was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 200.

The Deputy Commissioner, however, adds—

Such a case as the above is, however, most unusual, and not at all typical of the relations between planters and ryots, which are generally most satisfactory, much good sense and a spirit of give and take being displayed on both sides. The villagers dislike the neighbourhood of a tea garden, because the manager impounds their cattle when they trespass on the tea, and also because the garden occupies a certain amount of land which would otherwise have been available for fuel and fodder. On the other hand, they appreciate the employment which the garden affords and the contracts which the manager gives out to them for building, roadwork, &c. Similarly, the planter complains that the village cattle damage his tea, but he values the labour which he occasionally gets from the village and the cheap rice it supplies to his coolies.

55. There is nothing new to report under this head, but there is no reason to suppose that the general condition of labourers was in any way less satisfactory than during previous years.

General condition of labourers.

56. The figures given below show the amount of land held direct from Government by immigrants in the various districts of the province :

Settlement of time-expired labourers on the land.

District.	1891. Acres.	1892. Acres.
Cachar	7,365	7,538
Sylhet	1,208	996*
Kámrúp	42	92
Darrang	8,327	10,631
Nowgong	2,069	2,362
Sibságar	11,732	12,306
Lakhimpur	5,724	6,585
Total	36,467	40,510

There was thus a more or less considerable increase in every district except Sylhet ; but, as has been pointed out on previous occasions, the figures under this head do not embody complete information. The following remarks made by the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang may be quoted :

The interesting thing about these figures is that the bulk of the land here shown is held in the Tezpur subdivision. In the Mangaldai subdivision only 199 acres are shown as held by time-expired coolies, and there is a reason for this. In that crowded subdivision all the really good land has long ago been taken up by the indigenous population. Here in Tezpur there are still thousands of acres only waiting for the grass jungle to be burned down and the plough to be applied to produce admirable crops. In Tezpur, time-expired coolies paying revenue to Government already occupy about a ninth of the total area cultivated with rice. Besides these there are coolies who cultivate land, held mostly rent-free from their employers.

57. The following table shows the number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries, the diseases from which they were suffering when admitted to the dispensary, and the average period of their detention :

Time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.

District.	Number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.	Nature of diseases.							Number of days treated.	Average period of detention in days.
		Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Other causes.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cachar... ...	229	4	19	44	33	56	73	229	5,121	22·3
Sylhet	241	23	61	31	64	3	59	241	2,385	9·8
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
Darrang ...	46	4	1	10	5	13	13	46	110	2·4
Nowgong ...	43	1	3	3	7	5	24	43	1,464	33·9
Sibságar ...	123	1	25	11	5	15	66	123	2,727	22·1
Lakhimpur ...	43	...	3	8	7	...	25	43	680	15·8
Total of 1892 ...	725	33	112	107	121	92	260	725	12,487	17·2
„ „ *1891* ...	*505*	*5*	*63*	*94*	*76*	*59*	*208*	*505*	*10,102*	*20·0*

These figures do not call for any particular comment except in so far as they show a largely increasing tendency for time-expired coolies to resort to Government dispensa-

* Of these, 150 acres were held from Government, 468 acres from managers of tea gardens, and 378 acres from other landholders.

ries. This was probably due to the peculiarly unhealthy character of the year under report. In many cases also coolies, whose contracts have not expired, are sent to dispensaries for treatment ; and in one instance, at all events, the Chief Commissioner, on the occasion of inspecting a dispensary, found that large arrears on account of diet money were due to the dispensary from garden managers. The occurrence of such arrears is not creditable, and Deputy Commissioners will be instructed to see that demands of this sort are punctually paid up by those from whom they are due. It should also be understood that any subscription made by a garden to the dispensary fund ought not to affect the charge for dieting, as medical attendance free of charge is a sufficient consideration for such subscription, and the charge on account of dieting is an entirely separate matter. Figures showing coolies treated in the Tezpur Lunatic Asylum are not included in the above statement, but the Chief Commissioner has had occasion to point out that when coolies still under contract are so treated and are cured and sent back to the gardens, the managers of the gardens concerned should be called upon to pay the diet expenses actually incurred.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

58. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1892-93 :

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.	Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Medical	.....	.....	.....	Salaries of depôt establishments (including native doctors, hospital assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menials)	8,680 10 4	1,230 5 10	9,911 0 2
Contractors' license fees under section 13	3,148 0 0	650 0 0	3,798 0 0	Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs)	8,625 9 4	108 11 6	8,734 4 10
Recruiters' license fees under section 24	.....	400 0 0	400 0 0	Contingent charges	1,754 2 7	299 3 9	2,053 6 4
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68	.....	12,261 8 0	12,261 8 0	Grants to dispensaries	5,530 0 0	.....	5,530 0 0
Fees for licenses of inland steamers and native boats under section 90	.....	1,378 12 0	1,378 12 0	Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers	5,782 6 1	13,131 15 10	18,914 5 11
Rates under section 109 ..	54,975 3 0	.....	54,975 3 0	Clerks and servants	8,453 10 8	4,784 2 3	13,237 12 11
Fees for use of debarkation depôts	2,653 5 9	.....	2,653 5 9	Travelling allowance	5,081 1 0	1,145 10 4	6,226 11 4
Pilot, &c., charges recovered ..	2,806 13 0	.....	2,806 13 0	Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit establishments, refunds, pensions)	3,774 15 10	3,611 9 3	7,386 9 1
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospital	410 13 9	.....	410 13 9	Deficit in the Bengal portion of the fund	9,591 5 3*	—9,591 5 3*	.....
Cash recoveries	0 13 6	.....	0 13 6				
Fines and Miscellaneous	48 3 6	10 1 6	58 5 0				
Total	64,043 4 6	14,720 5 6	78,763 10 0	Total	57,273 13 1	14,720 5 6	71,994 2 7

* In the previous returns this adjustment was made by addition to, and deduction from, the Assam and Bengal figures against the head "Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers," and the present classification has been adopted in accordance with recent orders of the Comptroller General with reference to the estimates for the year 1893-94.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

F. C. DAUKES,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The 11*th July* 1893.

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REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR

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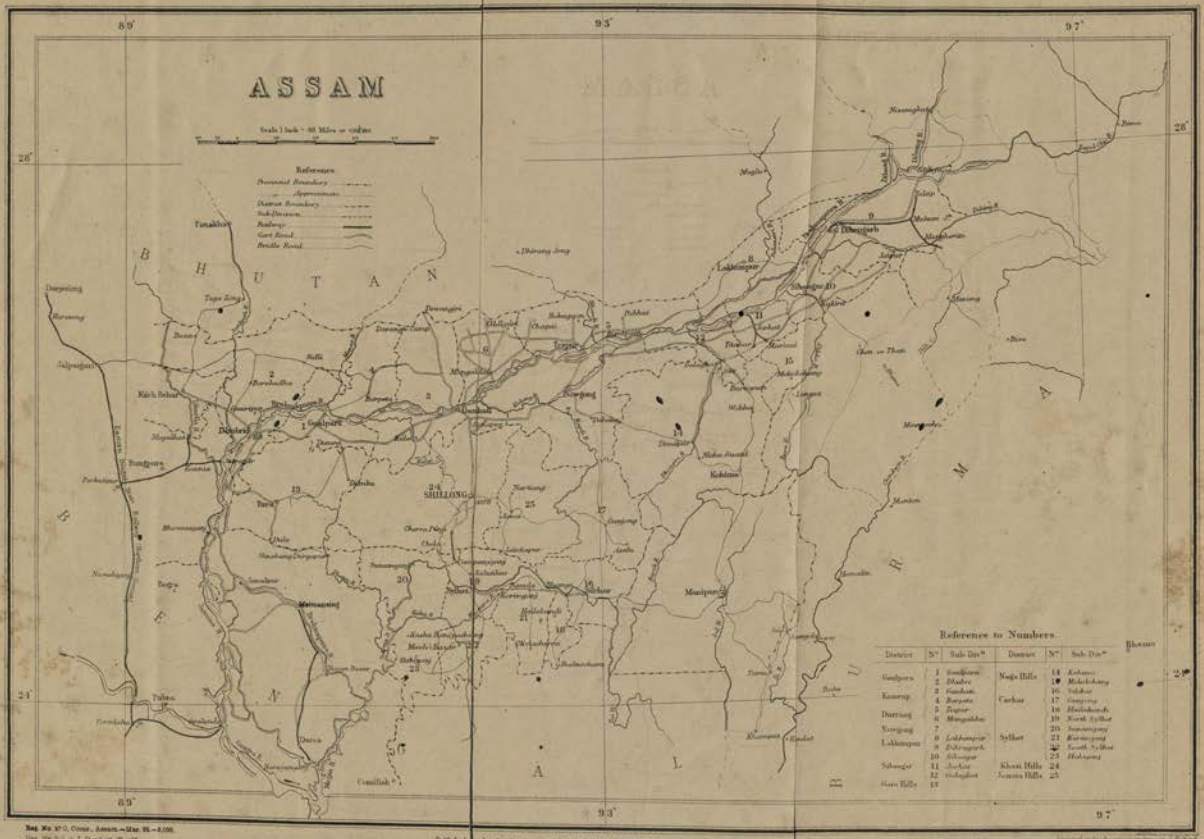
ASSAM
Scale 1 Inch = 16 Miles or 64 Miles
References
Provincial Boundary
Approximate
District Boundary
Sub-Division
Railways
Cart Roads
Bridle Roads
89°
93°
97°
26°
24°
BHUTAN
Darjeeling
Kurseong
Jalpaiguri
Titaya Jungs
Kuch Behar
Dhubri
Goalpara
Rangpur
Pachakoti
Bijni
Mechpara
Sidli
Barnadhar
Mangaldai
Tezpur
Nowgong
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Dhansiri Jungs
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REPORT ON LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1893.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

Amendments made in the Labour and Emigration law by Act VII of 1893.

The Inland Emigration Act, I of 1882, was amended during the year by Act VII of 1893 after prolonged and exhaustive discussion extending over more than four years. The title of the Act was also altered to "The Assam Labour and Emigration Act," as the Act controls not only the system under which labourers emigrate to this Province, but also that under which they are employed here on estates falling within the Act. The following are the more important changes in the law made by the amending Act of 1893 (the sections of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, as revised, are quoted):

Section 1.—The Act was extended to the Central Provinces and the Ganjam district, and its extension to other parts of the Madras Presidency by the Local Government was declared permissible.

Section 9.—The maximum period of a contract under the Act was reduced from five to four years.

Sections 11A-11D.—The Local Government has been empowered to cancel labour contracts in cases of wrongful or irregular recruitment; and the local officers have been empowered to repatriate to their native districts labourers whose contracts may be so cancelled, together with their families and dependents, and to recover the cost of repatriation from the employer.

Section 42A.—It has been provided that an employer may require a medical certificate as to a labourer's fitness to labour in Assam before the labourer is placed under contract under Chapter III of the Act (recruiting by contractors &c.).

Section 111.—The maximum period of a contract entered into in a labour district between the employer and the labourer direct, *i.e.*, otherwise than in the presence of a Government officer, has been reduced to one year. The execution of such contracts has also been restricted to the actual district in which the labourer is to be employed.

Sections 112-112B.—The system of Dhubri contracts has been placed on a legal footing and made subject to rules framed by the Chief Commissioner under the Act.

Sections 128-133.—The powers of the Local Administration and of the local officers to take action against unhealthy gardens under the coercive provisions of the Act have been considerably strengthened. Under section 128, as it originally stood, the District Magistrate was the only authority who could summon a committee on an unhealthy garden, and that only on the written report of an Inspector, certifying that the garden was unfit for the residence of labourers. The revised Act gives power to the Magistrate to summon such a committee of his own motion, and also empowers the Local Administration, in certain cases, to order the Magistrate to convene a committee. The Local Administration has further been empowered to call for the proceedings of a committee, and, if the finding of the committee is not unanimous, to record upon such proceedings any finding which the committee was competent to record. Under the old Act, the Local Administration was the only authority which could direct a medical inspection by the District Medical Officer, with a view to coercive action; as now amended, section 130 gives to the Magistrate the same powers as to the Local Administration in respect of ordering a medical inspection of gardens when the mortality has exceeded 7 per cent. Final orders under section 132 are, however, to be passed by the Local Administration in all cases.

Section 140A.—When the contract of a labourer has been cancelled or determined under section 111A, 111B, 122, or 140, power is given to the Inspector or Magistrate to cancel the contracts of other labourers related to such labourer.

Section 142A.—The Inspector and Magistrate have been empowerd to equalise the terms of the contracts of husband and wife when they would otherwise expire on different dates.

Sections 142B-142F.—Complete arrangements have been provided for sending back to their native districts, together with their families and dependents, at the expense of the employer or of the Inland Labour Transport Fund, labourers and immigrants of the following classes :

(*a*) labourers on contract under the Act whose contracts are determined under section 122 of the Act on account of their permanent physical incapacity to labour on an estate ;

(*b*) immigrants not being labourers under Act contracts, who are permanently incapacitated from earning their livelihood in a labour district ;

(*c*) labourers under contract whose contracts may be cancelled on account of wrongful or irregular recruitment ;

(*d*) immigrants not under contract who appear to have been wrongfully or irregularly recruited.

Sections 121 *and* 170.—A paragraph has been added to these sections, empowering the Inspector to endorse days of absence, whether on account of sickness or otherwise, on a labour contract *at any time*, subject to the condition that an employer, who omits to apply for such endorsement when the Inspector visits his estate, shall ordinarily be debarred from afterwards applying for it.

Section 171A.—This section provides for a monthly statement of deserters, the form for which has been laid down in the revised rules under the Act. Unless this statement is submitted, the employer is not entitled to the endorsement on a labour contract of periods of absence owing to desertion.

Sections 173 *and* 175.—The procedure to be followed at the police station when a deserter is arrested and taken there has been amended, and Magistrates have been permitted to impose a fine for desertion instead of imprisonment, if for any reason they think that the former punishment is preferable.

Sections 182-182C.—Section 182 of the Act, as it originally stood, has been replaced by these sections, which provide in greater detail for the endorsement on labour contracts by Magistrates convicting any labourer of the periods of (*a*) unlawful absence from labour, (*b*) of desertion, and (*c*) of imprisonment, not only for offences under the Act itself, but also for offences under other laws when the term of imprisonment imposed does not exceed three years.

Section 192.—The Inland Labour Transport Fund has been made available for meeting the cost of sending labourers and other persons back to their native districts.

Chief objects of the amendments made by Act VII of 1893.

2. Apart from miscellaneous changes and improvements of detail, the main objects which the framers of the revised Act had in view, as described in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill, which was subsequently passed as Act VII of 1893, were—

First, to prevent and remedy abuses in the system of recruiting labourers and other immigrants for employment on estates in the labour districts ;

Secondly, to strengthen the control of the Local Administration over unhealthy estates, and to enable the local authorities more readily to enforce sanitary improvements on them ; and

Thirdly, to restrict, as far as practicable, consistently with the interests of the tea industry and the present conditions of labour emigration, the operation of the penal contract system sanctioned by the Act.

Under the third head, the term of the labour contract has been reduced from five to four years when executed in the presence of a public officer, and from five years to one year when executed direct between employer and labourer.

Under the second head there has already been greater stringency in the treatment of unhealthy estates. This subject is dealt with fully in Chapter V of the Report. In the rules framed by the Chief Commissioner under the Act, provision has been made for securing a higher standard of qualifications among the native doctors who may be appointed medical officers of tea gardens, and the Chief Commissioner has prepared a scheme for improving the system of inspection, and especially inspection by Civil Surgeons and District Medical Officers, which has just received the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

Under the first head, the revised Act has made, so far as the Assam Province is concerned, very satisfactory provision for detecting and remedying cases of wrongful recruitment. This is shown by the following extract from the speech of Sir Philip Hutchins, the Member of Council in charge of the Bill which became Act VII of 1893, when he introduced the Bill in the Governor General's Council :

Emigrants to the districts of the Assam Valley travel from Dhubri as Act labourers, and very complete and elaborate arrangements are already in force for their supervision in transit. To Sylhet and Cachar labourers travel chiefly as free emigrants. The Bengal Act of 1889 has been extended to those districts ; rules have been framed under it ; and the arrangements for controlling free emigrants in transit are very similar to those made in Bengal. Moreover, the present Bill will supply several defects in the arrangements authorised by the existing law. The system of executing contracts at Dhubri is popular with the emigrants themselves, but it was hardly contemplated by the framers of Act I of 1882. It will now be placed on a legal footing. The powers of inspecting officers have been greatly strengthened by the Bill. Power has been given to the Chief Commissioner to cancel contracts in cases where there is reason to believe that a labourer has been illegally or fraudulently recruited, and complete arrangements have been made for repatriating to their native districts at the cost of the employer any emigrants who may have been wrongfully taken up to Assam. In future, the check over malpractices in recruitment will be as complete as it is possible to make it.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner will only add to the above that no free emigrant, who comes up as such to a labour district, can now enter into a contract for more than one year, except in the presence of a public officer. Such contract is further liable to verification by the Magistrate and Inspector, who may cancel it on sufficient cause shown by the labourer ; and it may, moreover, be redeemed at any time by the labourer under section 142 of the Act, without any cause being shown, on the payment of a sum not exceeding Rs. 12. Where the contract has been entered into in the presence of a public officer either in Bengal or Assam (in which case it may extend to a term not exceeding four years), the order of the Local Government is necessary for its cancelment ; when the contract is executed in Bengal, the Chief Commissioner must necessarily be guided by the judgment of the Bengal Government and its officers. It may here be stated, for the information of employers and suppliers of labour, that this Administration will not hesitate to direct the cancelment of contracts and the repatriation of labourers and emigrants at the cost of the employer in cases in which there is any reasonable suspicion of substantial irregularity in recruitment. This may at first sight appear harsh to employers in this Province, who may not have been in any way responsible for the irregularities ; but Mr. Lyall believes that employers themselves will agree with him that a strict enforcement of this principle will, in the end, be found to be one of the most effective methods of bringing pressure to bear on professional suppliers and recruiters of labour.

Provincial figures of immigration.

3. The following table compares the immigration of all classes of coolies into the Province during the past two years:

		1892.	1893.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ...	Sardári adults	13,513	11,710	—1,803	—13·3
	Contractors' adults ...	14,942	14,304	— 638	— 4·3
Non-Act adults		13,347	11,129	—2,218	—16·6
Total		41,802	37,143	—4,659	—11·1
Children		14,248	13,532	— 716	— 5·0
Grand total		56,050	50,675	—5,375	— 9·5

In this table, which has been prepared in the form adopted for several years past, "free emigrants" who entered into Act contracts at Dhubri are shown as Act labourers, and distributed between the two heads of Act sardári and Act contractors' adults. The new statement, given in paragraph 9 of this Report, shows separately (1) Act immigrants in the proper sense, *i.e.*, those who executed contracts in the recruiting provinces and emigrated already under Act contracts ; and (2) free emigrants who emigrated as far as Dhubri as such, and entered into contracts at that station, completing their journey from that station to the actual labour district as Act labourers.

The above table calls for no remarks. Although the total number of immigrants shows a decrease, as compared with the figures of the previous year, it is well up to the average of the last few years.

The figures for the last five years are as follows :

		1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Act adults	Sardári	15,277	7,291	9,241	13,513	11,710
	Contractors' ...	9,522	10,082	16,071	14,942	14,304
Non-Act adults		12,749	8,832	12,627	13,347	11,129
Total of Act and non-Act adults ...		37,548	26,205	37,939	41,802	37,143
Children		18,110	9,875	11,969	14,248	13,532
Grand total (including children) ...		55,658	36,080	49,908	56,050	50,675

These figures show that during 1893 sardári recruitment has not been able to hold its own against professional (contractors') recruitment as well as it did in 1892 or in 1889. The proportion of children imported in 1893 is, however, fairly satisfactory, and shows that a fair amount of the emigration was that of families and not of solitary individuals.

District and Valley statistics of immigration.

4. The following table gives the statistics of immigration for each division and tea-district of the Province separately :

District	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1892.	1893.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1892.	1893.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1892.	1893.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1892.	1893.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1892.	1893.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar ..	3,079	2,534	—17·70	3,220	3,295	+2·32	6,299	5,829	—7·46	1,162	2,080	+79·00	7,461	7,909	+6·00
Sylhet ..	1,020	1,454	+42·54	7,175	4,441	—38·10	8,195	5,895	—28·06	4,260	3,093	—27·39	12,455	8,988	—27·83
Total Surma Valley	4,099	3,988	—2·70	10,395	7,736	—25·57	14,494	11,724	—19·11	5,422	5,173	—4·59	19,916	16,897	—15·15
Kámrúp ..	340	204	—40·00	44	34	—22·72	384	238	—38·02	213	93	—56·33	597	331	—44·55
Darrang ..	4,962	4,092	—17·53	386	413	+6·99	5,348	4,505	—15·76	2,091	1,428	—31·70	7,439	5,933	—20·24
Nowgong ..	1,166	1,081	—7·28	507	697	+37·47	1,673	1,778	+6·27	500	360	—28·00	2,173	2,138	—1·61
Sibságar ..	7,611	6,977	—8·33	889	929	+4·49	8,500	7,906	—6·98	3,348	3,435	+2·59	11,848	11,341	—4·27
Lakhimpur ..	10,277	9,672	—5·88	1,126	1,320	+17·22	11,403	10,992	—3·60	2,674	3,043	+13·79	14,077	14,035	—·29
Total Assam Valley	24,356	22,026	—9·56	2,952	3,393	+14·93	27,308	25,419	—6·91	8,826	8,359	—5·29	36,134	33,778	—6·52
Grand total ..	28,455	26,014	—8·57	13,347	11,129	—16·61	41,802	37,143	—11·14	14,248	13,532	—5·02	56,050	50,675	—9·59

The number of immigrants to each district except Cachar was smaller than in the previous year, the decrease being most marked in Sylhet, Darrang, and Kámrúp. Regarding Sylhet the Deputy Commissioner explains as follows :

"There was a decrease of 3,467 in the total number of immigrants and dependents during the year 1893, as compared with the preceding year. The decrease occurred among all classes except contractors' adults (Act coolies). The reason for the decrease is probably the abnormal importations for the years 1891 and 1892. The old gardens have nearly all the labour they want. The increase in immigration under the head of "Contractors' adults" is due to the fact that several new gardens are being opened out in South Sylhet and Habiganj, and urgently required labour, the most certain way to obtain which is undoubtedly the employment of a contractor."

Similar explanation is given regarding Darrang. The Deputy Commissioner observes that decrease in the importations was to be expected after the large importations of the last two years ; and he points out that the number of importations in 1893 is far ahead of those of 1890 and practically equal to those of 1889. In Kámrúp, which, however, is not of much importance as a tea-district, it is reported that the decrease in immigration is

due to two causes: first, to the financial condition of the estates in the district, which precludes large outlay on importing coolies; and, secondly, to the fact that this district is now recovering from the effects of the *kála-azár* epidemic, and local labour is again available. The latter cause, *viz.*, the fact that local labour is available, is probably the more important element. In Cachar there was a considerable decrease in the importation of Act adults, combined with a small increase in the importation of non-Act adults and a very large increase in the number of children imported, the last-mentioned result showing that there was more family emigration into this district during the year. The figures for the other districts call for no remarks.

5. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the various localities of recruitment:

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden-sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal. Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas.	Men ...	3,393	3,548	4,867	4,295	1,464	1,380	9,724	9,223
	Women	2,951	3,404	4,046	3,802	1,189	1,408	8,186	8,614
	Total ...	6,344	6,952	8,913	8,097	2,653	2,788	17,910	17,837
Behar	Men ...	1,206	762	591	421	555	698	2,352	1,881
	Women	837	529	395	317	489	401	1,721	1,247
	Total ...	2,043	1,291	986	738	1,044	1,099	4,073	3,128
Bengal Proper and Orissa ...	Men ...	872	835	1,151	1,670	876	882	2,899	3,417
	Women	739	928	1,248	1,974	781	1,027	2,768	3,929
	Total ...	1,611	1,793	2,399	3,644	1,657	1,909	5,667	7,346
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	1,066	766	705	545	3,048	2,273	4,819	3,584
	Women	772	420	531	409	3,074	1,775	4,377	2,604
	Total ..	1,838	1,186	1,236	954	6,122	4,048	9,196	6,188
Central Provinces ...	Men	180	124	461	351	95	56	736	531
	Women	105	37	370	289	49	39	524	365
	Total ...	285	161	831	640	144	95	1,260	896
Madras	Men ...	762	185	266	115	515	127	1,543	427
	Women	605	132	273	112	473	96	1,351	340
	Total ...	1,367	317	539	227	988	223	2,894	767
Bombay	Men ...	3	.....	.....	2	11	.....	14	2
	Women	.....	.....	.....	2	10	1	10	3
	Total ...	3	.....	.....	4	21	1	24	5
Nepal	Men ...	8	8	16	.....	6	.....	30	8
	Women	14	2	4	.....	3	.....	21	2
	Total ...	22	10	20	.....	9	.....	51	10
Assam	Men ...	.....	.....	18	.....	672	920	690	920
	Women	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	46	37	46
	Total ...	.....	.....	18	.....	709	966	727	966
Total	Men ...	7,490	6,258	8,075	7,399	7,242	6,336	22,807	19,993
	Women	6,023	5,452	6,867	6,905	6,105	4,793	18,995	17,150
	Grand total ...	13,513	11,710	14,942	14,304	13,347	11,129	41,892	37,143

The number of labourers imported from the Lower Provinces of Bengal has increased from 27,650 in 1892 to 28,311 in 1893. The importations from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas remained about the same, while those from Bengal Proper and Orissa increased by 1,679. The two last-named local divisions of Bengal have been taken together, as there is no separate heading in the returns required from managers of tea-estates for labourers from Orissa. An attempt has been made in recent years to show labourers from Orissa separately, but their numbers have probably been understated. The number of labourers from Behar declined from 4,073 in 1892 to

3,128 in 1893. As might have been expected from the decrease in total importations, a smaller number of immigrants came from all the other recruiting provinces. The importations from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have fallen from 9,196 to 6,188. The Officiating Chief Commissioner does not altogether regret this decrease, or that of Behar immigrants; for, although there are parts of the Province, especially in the Surma Valley, where immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behar thrive and keep good health, the climate of other parts of the Province is unsuited to them; and there is no doubt that the mortality lists are swelled by the deaths of unsuitable classes of coolies recruited from these local areas, chiefly through the agency of professional contractors. Separate statistics relating to the Central Provinces have only been kept for the last two years; and no inferences can, therefore, be drawn from the figures of importations from these provinces. The number of immigrants from the Madras Presidency in each of the last five years has been as follows:—1889, 689; 1890, 1,895; 1891, 2,018; 1892, 2,894; 1893, 767. There was thus a considerable and sudden fall in the importations, which had been steadily rising since 1889. This result seems to be attributed by Assam officers to the bad class of coolies who have recently been obtained from Ganjam. Thus, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar writes:—"The Madras coolie (Ganjam) proved to be of a very bad type, and the importation has almost ceased. This is to be regretted, as coolies of a good description are available in Ganjam ....., but there seems to be a want of arrangements for obtaining them." The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet also observes that the fall in importations from Madras was due to recent batches being found unable to withstand the change of climate, though, as a rule, Madras coolies do very well in that district. From the report of the Collector and Superintendent of Emigration, Ganjam, and the Order of the Madras Government thereon (copies of which have been forwarded to him by the Government of India), the Officiating Chief Commissioner learns that the falling off in the number of emigrants from Ganjam is due to the favourable season and the quantity of work locally available in that district. The Superintendent writes:—"It is unlikely that the figure* will fall so low again. The heaviest part of the railway work is now completed, and the local demand for labour must fall off. So favourable a season as last year's, moreover, cannot be expected to recur often." The Assam labourers shown in the above statement are natives of this Province, and therefore not immigrants in the strict sense; but they are included in the district returns as having immigrated from one district within the Province to another.

* *i.e.*, number of emigrants.

The following figures show the relative order in which each locality of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations:

(*a*)—*Act Importations.*

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1893.
	Garden Sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur	6,952	8,097	15,049
(2) Bengal Proper and Orissa	1,793	3,644	5,437
(3) North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	1,186	954	2,140
(4) Behar	1,291	738	2,029

(*b*)—*Non-Act Importations.*

	Number of coolies imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	4,048
(2) Chota Nagpur	2,788
(3) Bengal Proper and Orissa	1,909
(4) Behar	1,099

The various localities of recruitment stand in the same relative position as during the two previous years in regard both to Act and non-Act importations.

6. The proportion of women among adult immigrants from the principal localities of recruitment is given below :

Female immigrants.

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Chota Nagpur	46·5	48·9	45·4	46·9	44·8	50·5	45·7	48·2
Behar	40·9	40·9	40·0	42·9	46·8	36·4	42·2	39·3
Bengal Proper and Orissa ...	45·8	51·7	52·0	54·1	40·1	53·7	48·7	53·4
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	42·0	35·4	42·9	42·8	50·2	43·8	47·6	42·0

These figures show a satisfactory increase during the year in the proportion of women imported from the more important areas of recruitment. The proportion of children to adult emigrants also shows a slight increase—from 34 to 36 per cent.—and this is a better test of family emigration than the proportion of women to men. The proportion of women naturally varies according to the distance of the recruiting areas from Assam ; it is highest among immigrants from Bengal Proper and lowest among those from Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. A larger proportion of women were recruited through contractors than through garden sardárs. There is nothing unusual in this. Precisely the same result was observed for the years 1886—1888 ; and in the Special (triennial) Report submitted to the Government of India in 1890, it was explained "that, although the largest percentage of females is shown under the head of 'Contractors' immigrants,' the district reports show that contractors' batches consist largely of single females, as managers of gardens generally insist on a certain supply of females in each batch. The females among sardári immigrants, on the other hand, appear to come up with their families."

7. The following table shows—(1) the number of Act labourers imported during the past two years into each district and division of the Province, (2) the number imported through garden sardárs and contractors, respectively, and (3) the average number imported by each sardár :

Extent to which Act labourers were recruited by contractors and garden sardárs.

District.	Sardári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardárs.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1893, as compared with 1892.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	Sardári.	Contractors'.
Cachar ...	2,031	1,341	495	456	4·1	2·9	1,048	1,193	—33·9	+13·8
Sylhet ...	717	561	301	589	2·3	·9	303	893	—21·7	+194·7
Total Surma Valley ...	2,748	1,902	796	1,045	3·4	1·7	1,351	2,086	—30·7	+54·4
Kámrúp ...	275	137	10	.....	27·5	.....	65	67	—50·1	+3·0
Darrang ...	2,453	1,808	446	388	5·5	4·6	2,509	2,284	—26·2	—8·9
Nowgong ...	602	317	141	116	4·2	2·7	564	764	—47·3	+35·4
Sibságar ...	4,189	4,406	1,187	1,797	3·5	·2·4	3,422	2,571	+5·1	—24·8
Lakhimpur ...	3,246	3,140	811	1,267	4·0	·2·4	7,031	6,532	—3·2	—7·0
Total Brahmaputra Valley ...	10,765	9,808	2,595	3,568	4·1	2·7	13,591	12,218	—8·8	—10·1
Grand total ...	13,513	11,710	3,391	4,613	3·9	2·5	14,942	14,304	—13·3	—4·3

The chief object of this statement is to show the extent to which sardári recruitment was successful during the year. So far as the Surma Valley districts are concerned, the statement is of very little use for this purpose, as it omits altogether to take account of non-Act coolies (free or assisted emigrants) imported through garden sardárs. The

greater part of the immigration into the Surma Valley has for some years past been non-Act immigration. The following figures illustrate this :

		Number of Act immigrants.			Number of non-Act (adult) immigrants.	Total of Act and non-Act adult immigrants.
		Sardári.	Contractors'.	Total.		
Cachar	1889	1,809	641	2,450	3,227	5,677
	1890	862	520	1,382	1,450	2,832
	1891	1,520	876	2,396	2,393	4,789
	1892	2,031	1,048	3,079	3,220	6,299
	1893	1,341	1,193	2,534	3,295	5,829
Sylhet	1889	1,142	51	1,193	5,886	7,079
	1890	653	49	702	4,301	5,003
	1891	410	76	486	7,567	8,053
	1892	717	303	1,020	7,175	8,195
	1893	561	893	1,454	4,441	5,895
Total Surma Valley	1889	2,951	692	3,643	9,113	12,756
	1890	1,515	569	2,084	5,751	7,835
	1891	1,930	952	2,882	9,960	12,842
	1892	2,748	1,351	4,099	10,395	14,494
	1893	1,902	2,086	3,988	7,736	11,724

There is no doubt that in many cases certificates under the Act are granted to garden sardárs in the Surma Valley, who bring up their recruits as non-Act immigrants. From all accounts the Officiating Chief Commissioner is satisfied that sardári recruitment is in a flourishing condition in this Valley. It may here be remarked that the practice of granting certificates under the Act to garden sardárs and then allowing them to bring up their recruits as non-Act immigrants is not contemplated by the Act ; but the Officiating Chief Commissioner is not disposed to interfere with or discourage the practice, as it is a step towards a result which is desired on all hands—the complete disuse of the penal contract system of the Act.

As regards the Assam Valley, the first statement in this paragraph may be taken as fairly representing the state of sardári recruitment ; for free emigrants placed under contract at Dhubri are classed as Act labourers, and only a very small proportion of adult coolies—many of whom are probably dependents and not effective labourers—come up to the actual labour district as non-Act adults. The average number of recruits obtained by each garden sardár for the districts of the Valley during the last five years has been as follows :—1889, 4·3 ; 1890, 2·3 ; 1891, 2·8 ; 1892, 4·1 ; 1893, 2·7. The figures generally show that the average is largest for districts which are nearest to the recruiting districts, and that it diminishes in proportion to the distance of each labour district from the recruiting districts. On the whole, it appears that sardári recruitment has for some years past been unable to hold its own in the Assam Valley, and that employers have to recruit to a large extent through contractors. The reasons for this are not difficult to find. In the first place, coolies from Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh do not, as a rule, do well in the Assam Valley, and the chief recruiting grounds are Bengal Proper and Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas—the very localities in which the competition to obtain labourers is most keen. Secondly, owing to the extension of tea-planting operations, the demand for labour has much increased in late years. What would have been a fair supply eight or ten years ago, would now in most districts be considered altogether insufficient to supply requirements for extensions and to fill the annual vacancies in the labour force. This increased demand has arisen not only in the Assam and Surma Valleys, but also, the Officiating Chief Commissioner understands, among estates in the Northern Bengal districts. Thirdly, the Assam Valley districts are less favourably situated in the competition for labourers than the Surma Valley or tea-districts outside this Province. They are more remote, and therefore less known in the recruiting districts, and the journey to them is difficult and expensive. These reasons seem to account fully for the Assam Valley districts being unable to hold their own against other tea-districts in the competition for labourers without the assistance of organised professional recruiting agency. These conditions may possibly be modified when the Assam-Bengal Railway has been completed and cheaper and more rapid communication established between the Assam Valley and the recruiting areas.

Medical examination of sardári immigrants.

8. The following figures show the number of sardárs' certificates in the several districts which provided, under section 70 of the Act, for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement, and the proportion of such certificates to the total number of certificates to recruit granted to sardárs during the past two years :

District.	Number of certificates which provided for the medical examination of labourers.		Percentage of such certificates to certificates to recruit granted to sardárs.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	181	201	36·5	44·0
Sylhet	.....	144	.....	24·4
Kámrúp	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	314	315	70·4	81·1
Nowgong	116	90	82·2	77·5
Sibságar	743	1,200	62·5	66·7
Lakhimpur	337	420	41·5	33·1
Total ...	1,691	2,370	49·8	51·3

In 1891 the percentage of certificates which provided for medical examination was 39·0. The improvement which occurred in 1892 has thus been generally maintained, but the Officiating Chief Commissioner regrets to observe the small percentage shown against Lakhimpur, which is considerably lower than last year ; a medical examination is more necessary prior to engagement for this district than in the case of most others in the Province.

One of the changes made by the revised Act is to allow managers a similar option of requiring coolies recruited through contractors to be medically examined as to their fitness to labour in the labour district before they are placed under contract. Mr. Lyall hopes that employers will make use largely of this provision.

Statistics of free or assisted emigration.

9. In reviewing the Labour Immigration Report for 1891, the Government of India commented on the fact that labourers, who entered into contracts at Dhubri, were shown as Act labourers in the returns, while they were also sometimes described as free emigrants. The Government of India suggested that "the forms should be altered so as to show more clearly the exact facts respecting free emigration to the two valleys. There are four classes of immigrants who should be exhibited separately—(1) those recruited by contractors, and (2) those recruited by garden sardárs, strictly under the Act ; (3) those who gave contracts at Dhubri, and (4) those who were put under contract in the labour districts properly so called." As explained at the beginning of the Provincial Report for 1892, the Chief Commissioner had arranged to show these four classes of coolies separately in the statements relating to immigration ; but, after receiving the District Officers' reports, he decided that it would be better to retain the old forms of statements and to give the information required by the Government of India in a separate statement. The alteration of the forms of existing statements would obscure comparison with the results of previous years. It is especially important that the statistics of sardári recruitment for the Assam Valley should be clearly shown in a form which will admit of ready comparison with the results of previous years, and it is, therefore, necessary to continue to classify those who give contracts at Dhubri into "Sardári" and "Contractors'" coolies. It was also found, when the district figures came to be tabulated into provincial statements for the purposes of this Report, that incorrect figures had been furnished in many cases; and the Officiating Chief Commissioner fears that it would not be possible to obtain correct figures regarding all the four classes of coolies mentioned by the Government of India without revising the forms of the returns required from employers under the Act. As the rules under the Act and the forms have only recently been revised, it would be preferable not to alter them again so soon. For practical purposes the coolies who execute contracts at Dhubri are, in fact, Act labourers, very much in the same sense as the coolies who go down from their native districts to Calcutta and enter into contracts there.

This being so, the Officiating Chief Commissioner thinks that, at the stage which free or assisted emigration has now reached in respect of the Assam Valley districts, it is better to continue to treat coolies who give contracts at Dhubri as Act labourers in the ordinary statements. The object of the Government of India will, it is believed, be fully satisfied by the following new statement, which has been prepared to give effect to their wishes, and which shows *separately, so far as information is available, each* of the four classes of immigrants mentioned above :

District.	Act immigrants.			Free (non-Act) immigrants subsequently employed as Act labourers.			Free (non-Act) immigrants employed as free (non-Act) labourers and their dependents.			Grand total.
	Contracted in recruiting districts									
	Under Chapter III of Act.	Under Chapter IV of Act.	Total.	Contracted at Dhubri.	Contracted in actual labour district.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total.	
Cachar	1,193	1,341	2,534	.....	941	941	2,354	2,080	4,434	7,909
Sylhet	893	561	1,454	.....	1,279	1,279	3,162	3,093	6,255	8,988
Total Surma Valley ...	2,086	1,902	3,988	.....	2,220	2,220	5,516	5,173	10,689	16,897
Kámrúp	56	49	105	99	.....	99	34	93	127	331
Darrang	633	928	1,561	2,531	.....	2,531	413	1,428	1,841	5,933
Nowgong	521	235	756	620	55	675	642	360	1,002	2,433
Sibságar	924	1,588	2,512	4,465	293	4,758	636	3,435	4,071	11,341
Lakhimpur	775	3,140	3,915	5,757	62	5,819	1,258	3,043	4,301	14,035
Total Assam Valley ...	2,909	5,940	8,849	13,472	410	13,882	2,983	8,359	11,342	34,073
Grand total	4,995	7,842	12,837	13,472	2,630	16,102	8,499	13,532	22,031	50,970

This statement shows that there were 26,309 Act immigrants during the year, of whom 12,837 executed contracts in the recruiting districts and 13,472 at Dhubri. If those who contracted at Dhubri be excluded, the number of Act immigrants is 12,837. The total (26,309) differs from the total number of Act immigrants as shown in the tables in the preceding paragraphs (26,014). The difference is due to an excess number of 295 Act coolies being shown in this statement in the return from the Nowgong district. Moreover, the total number of Dhubri contracts differs from that reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára (13,567) ; the latter figure is given for the whole valley, and cannot be distributed between the different labour districts ; but this difference may possibly be due to labourers *en route* from Dhubri on the last day of the year and not yet arrived at their destination. In future District Officers should see that the figures in this statement agree with those given in the other statements in their reports. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts should also make arrangements to ensure, as far as possible, that the figures relating to Dhubri contracts reported from the actual labour districts shall agree with the total reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára.

The number of adult free emigrants was 24,601 including, or 11,129 excluding, Dhubri contracts. Of the latter number, the statement seems to show that 2,630 emigrants executed contracts in the actual labour district, while 8,499 continued as free (non-Act) labourers. No reliance can, however, be placed on the latter figures. The difficulty of maintaining a distinction between new immigrants and others entering into local contracts in the labour districts has been so often pointed out by the Government of India that it is unnecessary for the Officiating Chief Commissioner to do more than merely allude to it. The figures for the Cachar district, for instance, show that 941 of the free emigrants of the year executed local contracts in the labour district ; but on a reference to the statement of local contracts entered into within the district by all classes of coolies (paragraph 26 of this Report), it will be seen that the number of contracts entered into by new labourers is returned at 631 only, and the total number of local contracts entered into by all classes of labourers at 941. The figures

for the Assam Valley, which show that out of 3,393 new immigrants only 410 executed local contracts under the Act, also appear highly improbable ; judging from the experience of the contract system as carried out in the Assam Valley, a larger proportion of the new immigrants than this must have been placed under Act contracts during the year. Some approach to accuracy might be obtained by altering the forms of returns so as to require employers to report specially on this point ; but the Officiating Chief Commissioner, as already explained, would prefer not to do this for the present.

The figures for 1893 only have been entered in this statement in the present Report. In future reports the figures for the previous year will also be given in order to facilitate comparison.

Cost of importation.

10. As regards the cost of importing labourers, no information of special interest is given, except in the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar. In this district, it appears from the returns received from seventy-seven gardens that the cost of sardári recruits varied from Rs. 35 to Rs. 90, and gave an average of Rs. 82. The Deputy Commissioner, however, remarks :— "I am inclined to look upon Rs. 82 as representing more than a fair average. It seems to have been brought up by the large number of gardens belonging to one company which have favoured me with figures. I should consider Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 a fairer estimate." The cost of contractors' coolies ranged from Rs. 80 to Rs. 130, and gave an average of Rs. 105 ; it was below Rs. 80 in only three cases. In the special enquiry held as to the working of the labour system in 1889, the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar had furnished details of the cost of importation resulting in an average of sums varying from Rs. 45 to Rs. 58 for sardári coolies, and he had estimated the cost of a good contractor's coolie at about Rs. 100. The figures now furnished seem to show that the cost of importing labour to Upper Assam has increased since 1889.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley *viâ* Dhubri.

11. During the year 22,410 immigrants and dependents are reported to have started from the recruiting districts for the Assam Valley, as compared with 25,421 in 1892 ; only 3 died *en route* as compared with 47 in the previous year ; 38 absconded as compared with 40 ; and 275 were returned as detained by sickness as compared with 259 in the previous year. The number who are reported to have arrived at the Dhubri depôts was 22,141.* Of these, 12,870 (against 11,768 in 1892) came *viâ* Goalundo, and 9,271 (against 13,308) *viâ* Kaunia-Jatrapur. The Goalundo route was thus more popular during the year. Of the total number who passed through the Dhubri depôts, 1,567 were sardári coolies with contracts executed in the recruiting districts, and the rest free or assisted emigrants ; of the latter, 167, against 297 in the previous year, were brought up to be passed on as non-Act adults, and 20,407 to be placed under contract at Dhubri or to proceed as dependents to coolies to be placed under contract. Of the last-mentioned number, 2,309 were recruited through licensed sardárs, 6,654 through unlicensed sardárs, and 11,444 through contractors. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 2,835, 8,374, 12,302. The Civil Surgeon examined 14,362 emigrants (against 16,730 in 1892) before they were placed under contract, of whom 13,567 were passed, and 795, as compared with 783 in 1892, rejected. Of those rejected, 147 were sent up as non-Act adults by the depôt managers, and 265 as dependents of other labourers, and 383 were returned to their homes. The management of, and the arrangements in, the Dhubri depôts continue to be satisfactory.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

12. The statistics regarding the transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley are imperfect, and hardly worth reproducing. Immigrants travel partly by steamer and partly by country boat. So far as information is available, the mortality in transit was less than in the previous year, and no cases are reported in which the sanitary rules framed under Bengal Act I of 1889 for controlling the transit of free emigrants were infringed. The records kept by the Hospital Assistant at Karimganj show that of the coolies destined for the Cachar district who passed through the depôt there, 2,433 emigrants and dependents came by steamer from Goalundo to Fenchuganj, and 127 direct from Goalundo to Karimganj. This total (2,560) represents 32·4 per cent. of the total immigration to Cachar. As regards Sylhet, the Deputy Commissioner reports that the returns received from the local agents of the Steamer Company show that altogether 2,796 immigrants and dependents, or 31·1 per cent. of the total number of immigrants to the district, were landed from steamers. If these figures are correct, they would seem to show retrogression, for last year 57 per cent. of the immigrants to Sylhet appear to have travelled by steamer. The whole subject of the transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley should be more fully dealt with by the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar in

* This includes 47 persons who arrived on the last day of 1892.

future reports, and endeavour should be made to procure as complete and accurate information as possible. The most important points are—(1) mortality in transit; (2) extent to which the rules under Bengal Act I of 1889 are complied with, the mere absence of prosecutions not being accepted as sufficient evidence of compliance; and (3) the extent to which steamers are used for the immigrant traffic in preference to country boats, and are gaining ground or otherwise on the latter mode of conveyance.

Debarkation depôts.

13. The following statement shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year:

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts.				Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure.	
				Through want of a guide.	In hospital.	For segregation.	For night only.		Building.	Establishments &c.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	2	7,909	3,457	2	659	57	2,075	22	2,319 0 0	3,537 2 2
Sylhet	5	8,988	4,912	.....	14	31	533	...	354 4 6	1,510 1 8
Kámrúp	...	.....	....	.....	...	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Darrang	1	5,933	3,637	607	7*	...	1,935	...	299 15 3	1,676 13 7
Nowgong	1	2,138	1,339	86	10	12	643	...	100 0 0	366 0 0
Sibságar	3	11,341	12,892†	3,529	43	11	2,214	...	494 0 0	2,734. 2 0
Lakhimpur	1	14,035	11,997	542	21	...	1,054	...	403 11 0	1,076 10 0
Total	13	50,344	38,234	4,766	754	111	8,454	22	3,970 14 9	10,900 13 5
Total for 1892 ...	13	54,889	39,836	13,684	681	1,368	8,765	31	1,727 0 3	11,564 4 0

* 5 attendants. † This includes 1,551 immigrants for Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur.

The number and location of the depôts were the same as in the previous two years. As usual, a small proportion of the immigrants to the Surma Valley districts passed through the depôts. The number of coolies detained in the depôts through want of a guide, though considerably less than in the previous year, is still very large, especially in the Sibságar depôts. The Officiating Chief Commissioner hopes that the rule laid down in Circular No. 22J., dated the 5th August 1892, and reproduced at page 122 of the Immigration Manual, which authorises Deputy Commissioners and Sub-divisional Officers to charge an enhanced rate of fee in suitable cases in respect of coolies detained at the depôts for more than one day in consequence of the want of a guide, is being strictly enforced.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

14. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reports that there were no deaths among immigrants who travelled by steamer from Goalundo to Dhubri. The number of deaths at Dhubri and during transit from there to the gardens of the Assam Valley districts is shown in the following table:

	Number of deaths		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total.
At Dhubri	2	6	8
On board the steamer	3	8	11
At ports of debarkation—			
Gauháti	...	...	...
Tezpur	...	...	...
Silghát	...	...	...
Kokilamukh	...	4	4
Disangmukh	1	4	5
Nigriting	...	...	...
Mohanamukh	1	3	4
Total	7	25	32
Total for 1892	233	45	278

The above figures require no comment. The diminution in the mortality during transit was most satisfactory.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley.

15. As already explained, the statistics of mortality during the journey to Sylhet and Cachar are imperfect, in consequence of the large proportion of immigrants (chiefly non-Act immigrants) travelling by country boat. The following figures, however, which have been furnished by the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar, give statistics regarding the batches of labourers (and their dependents) who passed through the various Government depôts.

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who left Goalundo.	Deaths		
			En route.	In hospital.	Total.
Cachar	1893	2,685	15 *	22	37
	1892	3,457	29	35	64
Sylhet	1893	4,912	6	7	13
	1892	2,399	1	10	11

* In country boats.

The figures, so far as they go, show a diminution in the mortality during transit in 1893, but they compare unfavourably with the results in the Assam Valley. In future the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar should arrange to give more complete information under this head, and it should be fully explained how the figures entered in each of the columns of this statement were arrived at.

Cases of fraudulent and irregular recruitment. Results of enquiries at Dhubri.

16. During the year a careful watch was kept, as usual, in regard to complaints of fraudulent and irregular practices in connection with the recruitment of immigrants. Bi-monthly statements are submitted by District Officers, and, when necessary, action is taken.

Special attention is paid to the subject at Dhubri, where the immigrants first enter the Province; and enquiries are made into three classes of cases which are described as follows by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára:

> Enquiries into fraudulent recruitment of coolies are made on three accounts, *viz.*:
>
> (*a*) on receipt of complaints either from the Magistrates of the recruiting districts or from the relatives of persons enticed away;
>
> (*b*) when complaints are made directly by the persons themselves at the time of registration here; and
>
> (*c*) when the registering officer suspects any fraud in the recruitment of young persons who come here unaccompanied by relatives, and who seem hardly old enough to look after themselves.

Regarding enquiries of the first kind, the Deputy Commissioner has forwarded a list showing an abstract of the complaint made, the action taken, and the final result in each case. Altogether 53 complaints or reports were received—almost entirely through Magistrates in the recruiting districts—bringing to notice cases of the supposed enticement or fraudulent recruitment of immigrants. In 39 cases the immigrants concerned could not be traced, and there was nothing to show that they had really come to Assam. In 3 cases the complaints were found to be untrue, the immigrants having willingly come up and executed agreements. In 4 other cases the complaints were either found to be untrue or were not proved, after enquiry, where necessary, made in the recruiting districts; the account given by the Deputy Commissioner does not show clearly whether these cases were actually found untrue or were merely not proved. In one case the complaint was apparently found true, and the immigrant (an adult male) was repatriated. In one case the immigrant died, and no further action was taken. Five cases were pending at the end of the year. Of the ten cases of this description which were pending at the end of 1892, and in which the enquiry was completed in 1893, the results are as follows:—In three cases the immigrants were not traced as having come to Assam. In two cases the complainants, who had sent letters or petitions to the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, could not be traced in the recruiting districts. In five cases the complaints were either found false or were not proved; apparently three complaints were found false and two not proved.

As regards enquiries of the second and third kinds, the following account is given by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára:

> Cases of (*b*) description for 1893 are as follows:
>
> Two persons complained before the registering officer that they were fraudulently recruited; so they were forwarded to the Magistrates of the recruiting districts for enquiry and report. The charge against the recruiter was dismissed, and they were sent back to their homes.

Cases of (*c*) description for 1893 are as follows :

In nine cases no action was taken by the father, husband, guardian, or other relatives to recover the women, all of whom were of full age. In seven cases the women were reported as having come willingly to serve in tea-gardens in Assam. Some of them were reported to be prostitutes. In one case a woman was recovered by her guardian. In twenty-five cases the home of the woman was not discovered.

Eleven cases of this description for the year under report are still pending. The result of enquiry about these cases will be reported next year.

Nineteen pending cases of (*c*) description of the year 1892 ended as follows : No steps were taken in three cases by their guardians or any other relatives. All of them were of full age. The women in two cases went up to Assam of their own accord. In one case the woman was returned to her home. In twelve cases the attempt to trace the women's antecedents failed. The woman in one case ran away from the tea-garden, so no further enquiry was made.

Cases of fraudulent and irregular recruitment reported in the actual labour districts.

17. The following is an account of the cases of fraudulent or irregular recruitment reported from the actual labour districts :

In Cachar there were no such cases during the year.

In Sylhet ten cases were reported—all in the South Sylhet subdivision. Regarding nine of them the Deputy Commissioner writes :

Nine cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment were reported to the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet. Eight of them proved to be entirely false on enquiry, and the coolies were accordingly sent to perform their contracts on the gardens to which they were consigned.

One coolie woman, named Champa, who complained of being recruited under false pretences, was sent back to her home. On this subject the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, writes as follows :—"As regards allegations of fraudulent recruiting, there were nine cases under enquiry in the year 1893. Of these, one (a woman named Champa) complained that she had been recruited under misrepresentations. I examined the woman, the *chaprasi* who accompanied the batch, and other available witnesses, and, as a result, directed the manager of the garden concerned (Huglicherra) to send her back to her country, which he did at the expense of the garden or of the contractor who supplied her. In this connection I should like to note that I am endeavouring to persuade the gardens that obtain coolies through contractors, to compel the contractors to repatriate coolies who appear to have been fraudulently recruited or whose contracts are cut by the Inspector of Labourers under section 122 of the Act. I think every garden should have this stipulation with its contractors. A large company like the South Sylhet Company that imports a great number of coolies in the year, could certainly, without incurring any extra expense, make their contractors take back coolies who are found permanently unfit for labour or who appear to have been recruited under false pretences."

The other complaints of alleged fraudulent recruiting were made by eight coolies forwarded to the Huglicherra tea estate. Their statements were taken when they passed through Maulvi Bázár. Reference was made to the Superintendent of Emigration, who reported that they voluntarily gave their contracts before him in Calcutta, and their complaint was, therefore, decided to be without foundation.

The tenth case, by far the most important which occurred during the year, formed the subject of separate correspondence with the Deputy Commissioner. A batch of 126 Sonthal coolies were recruited for the Gayasnagar garden by a disgraceful fraud, committed, Mr. Lyall regrets to say, not by professional *arkatis*, or even by ignorant garden-sardárs, but by the European Assistant Manager of the garden, one Loader, with the knowledge and connivance of his Manager, Palmer. The coolies were promised wages at the rate of Rs. 12 a month, and, on the faith of that promise, were induced to enter into civil contracts (not under the Labour Act, but apparently enforcible under section 492 of the Indian Penal Code), which were registered at the Sub-Registry office in the recruiting district. Loader explained his action by saying that the coolies could earn Rs. 12 a month if they chose to do sufficient extra (or, as it is called, *ticca*) work ; but this explanation does not extenuate the fraud, as the coolies were given to understand that they would get Rs. 12 a month for an ordinary month's work. Loader was convicted of cheating by the Subdivisional Officer of South Sylhet, and fined Rs. 150, which was given as compensation to the coolies. The Subdivisional Officer explains, in justification of this apparently light sentence, that he was inclined to think that Palmer was at least as much to blame as Loader, and Loader had, it was understood in consequence of this transaction, been compelled to resign his appointment in the garden, and was in an almost destitute condition. The Officiating Chief Commissioner regards the sentence as altogether inadequate. People who act in this way bring disgrace on the whole planting community, and the Officiating Chief Commissioner hopes that if any offence of this kind should unfortunately be committed in future by any employer in Assam, the offender will not escape with anything less than a long term of imprisonment. Any estates which may in future be in charge of either of the two persons concerned in this fraud should be very carefully watched by District Officers, and labourers newly imported by them

should be frequently inspected to guard against the recurrence of similar malpractices. While the case was under enquiry the coolies took the matter into their own hands, and left the district to return to their own country. The Subdivisional Officer of South Sylhet has communicated with the Magistrate of the recruiting district, and has offered, in the event of the coolies instituting a civil suit, to assist them with documentary evidence in his possession.

In the Kámrúp district one case of alleged fraudulent recruitment was reported, which the Deputy Commissioner describes as follows :

On the 9th April 1893, a coolie woman, named Mathi Chusa, sent from A. T. Mukherji's depôt, Calcutta, for Pordeobam tea estate in North Lakhimpur, complained that she had been fraudulently recruited from her home in the district of Burdwan by Kisori Majumdar and Bama, who had brought her to Calcutta by train, and threatened her to make her execute the contract. The statements of the woman and of her companions were taken, and the woman was permitted to proceed on to the garden of destination in North Lakhimpur, pending further enquiries. Copies of the statement made by the woman were sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and District Magistrate of Burdwan for enquiries in their districts, also to the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, and the case was reported to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts.

The District Magistrate of Burdwan reported that Mathi Chusa, after her husband was imprisoned in the Burdwan jail, left her home for Calcutta accompanied by a woman of bad character, named Manjuri, where they were brought to A. T. Mukherji's coolie depôt by a licensed recruiter. They both agreed to go to Assam for employment. Manjuri was declined by the depôt manager on account of physical unfitness, and Mathi Chusa was accepted.

From the enquiries made by the police in Calcutta, it was also proved that Mathi Chusa was willing to go to Assam. She was examined by the medical officer in charge of the railway dispensary. After she was passed by the doctor as fit for a labourer, she was brought to the Deputy Magistrate's Court at Sealdah, and was registered as a coolie. It has been proved that her complaints were unfounded.

In Darrang there were six cases, described as follows by the Deputy Commissioner :

1. *Sanichar and his wife Somari.*—The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga requested me to send him these two coolies, stating that they had been recruited by false pretences, and also forwarded a process. Accordingly I sent them to Lohardaga. He informed me that the *arkati* who recruited the coolies was dead, and the case, therefore, as against the *arkati* abated ; but that the coolies also preferred charge against one Akshay Babu, depôt-holder at Purulia, and two of his *chaprasis*, and the papers in connection with the case were forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum. The latter officer informed me that the charge was entirely false. The two coolies have not, however, been sent back. It seems a pity that process should ever have been issued for their production.

2. *Purna.*—A sister of a coolie, named Purna, applied to the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, on the ground that her brother, about 12 years old, was enticed away, and sent up as a coolie to the Adabari tea garden. I visited the garden, and ascertained that Purna was undoubtedly under 12 years of age. I repatriated him accordingly at the manager's expense.

3. *Aghni and her daughter Sudhua.*—The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga requested me to record the statements of these coolies. I recorded their statements, and forwarded them to him. On receipt of the statement, he forwarded two warrants for their arrest. I sent them to Lohardaga under police escort. The final result of the case has not yet been communicated, as the accused persons have absconded.

4. *Demba Uraon.*—I recorded the statement of this coolie, as requested by the Deputy Commissioner, Lohardaga, and also, at the Deputy Commissioner's request, gave him my opinion that the statement seemed improbable and was unsupported by that of others of his batch.

5. *Mathu and Budhni.*—The District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, requested me to enquire as to the circumstances under which these coolies were recruited. Enquiries were subsequently made in Burdwan, which resulted in the discovery that the women, instead of being respectable married women inveigled away by false pretences, were, in fact, prostitutes, who have come up in the hope of becoming mistresses.

6. *Bimola.*—The woman was sent here under arrest by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, as she executed a contract, and then absconded when the other coolies were being shipped. On further enquiry, however, it was found that the woman had been subjected to unfair influences. With the sanction of the Local Government, I cancelled the contract under section 11A of Act I of 1882, and sent her back to her home.

In Nowgong no cases of alleged wrongful recruitment occurred during the year.

In Sibságar 15 cases were reported. The following is an abstract of the description *of each given by the Deputy Commissioner* :

(1) The father of a young man complained that he (the son) had been enticed away by a recruiter. It was found on enquiry in the recruiting district that he had executed a contract before the Magistrate of Sealdah. Subsequently, his father redeemed the contract, and he was repatriated.

(2) The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga forwarded a complaint that three girls under sixteen had been enticed away. On enquiry, it was found that they were of full age, and had willingly executed contracts before the Magistrate at Ranchi.

(3) The Subdivisional Officer of Gobindpur intimated that a complaint had been made, under sections 363, 417, and 379 of the Indian Penal Code, in respect of the recruitment of a young woman named Mukta Poddarin. The woman's statement was recorded in the labour district, and the Magistrate of the recruiting district subsequently took the case up under sections 417 and 379 of the Penal Code. The case was pending at the end of the year. The woman had been sent back to Gobindpur to give evidence ; and negotiations have been opened since the close of the year for redeeming her contract.

(4) The Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh requested that enquiry might be made regarding two boys and a girl aged 5, 10, and 14, said to have been enticed to Assam. On enquiry being made in Sibságar and Hazaribagh, it was found that the children had no parents or guardian, and had willingly accompanied one Sib Charan to a garden in the district.

(5) The Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal reported that a Native Christian had complained of the abduction of his daughter. The woman was traced to a garden in the Golághát subdivision. She had entered into a five-year contract at Calcutta, and there was nothing to show that she had not done this voluntarily.

(6) The District Superintendent of Police of Hazaribagh asked for enquiry to be made regarding the whereabouts and age of a boy said by his father to have been enticed to Assam. The boy turned out, on examination by the Civil Surgeon, to be nineteen or twenty years of age.

(7) A woman complained of having been fraudulently brought to Dhubri as the nominal wife of a man who said he was going to set up a shop there, and then being induced to execute a labour contract there. Although there was no legal proof of fraud, there appeared to be sufficient ground for cancelling her contract under section 11A of the Act. This was done, and she was repatriated.

(8) At the request of the Singbhum authorities, the statements of two coolies, said to have been enticed, were forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of that district. The Deputy Commissioner then asked what the ages of the coolies were, and was informed that they were of full age. He then intimated that no further proceedings were necessary.

(9) At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, the statements of two girls, said to be 13 and 14 and to have been enticed to Assam, were forwarded to him. Both the young women stated that they had come willingly to Assam. The Deputy Commissioner intimated that the complaint had been withdrawn.

(10) The Subdivisional Officer of Godda reported a case in which five coolies had been induced by fraud or threats to proceed to Assam. The case proved to be so far true that the coolies had been improperly sent up, and all five were sent back to their own district. The offenders were criminally convicted, and the Subdivisional Officer was, at the end of 1893, awaiting the result of their appeal before applying formally for cancellation of the contracts under section 11A.

(11) At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, enquiry was made regarding a woman said to have been enticed away from her husband. It turned out that the woman indicated was a different woman altogether, though bearing the same name. She had no complaint to make.

(12) Similar enquiry was made at the request of the same officer regarding another woman, who had executed a contract at Dhubri. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum subsequently intimated that the complaint had been enquired into in the recruiting district and dismissed.

(13) The Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, forwarded a complaint by a man to the effect that his son (who had executed a contract at Dhubri) had been enticed. The complaint turned out false, but the case was amicably settled, the garden manager consenting to the young man and his nominal wife going away on refund of the amount expended on their importation.

(14) At the instance of an employer in the recruiting district, enquiry was made regarding two coolies said to have been enticed, who had executed contracts at Dhubri. One of them had died, and no irregularity was found to have occurred in the case of the other.

(15) On enquiry made at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, it was found that a woman, said to have been improperly recruited who had contracted at Dhubri, had gone up to the district willingly and under circumstances which disclosed no irregularity.

Three cases were pending from the previous year in the Sibságar district; the enquiry was completed during 1893. In no case was any fraud or substantial irregularity in recruitment found to have been committed.

In the Lakhimpur district, 23 cases of wrongful recruitment were reported during the year, of which the following account is given by the Deputy Commissioner:

The number of cases of alleged fraudulent recruiting enquired into during the year under report was 23, against 19 of the preceding year. Of these, 3 are still pending. The final action taken in the cases disposed of is as follows:—In six cases repatriation was ordered; in one the contract was cancelled, but the coolie (a girl of ten) was allowed to remain with her parents on the tea estate; in another the subject of enquiry had died previously; in a third case an exchange of coolies was effected, in order to bring a man and his wife together on the same garden; the remaining cases were filed.

Of the 23 cases, 3 related to single women. Of these, 2 are still pending (both cases of a batch of four women). In the third case a girl was alleged to have been enticed away and made over to Jitu, a sardár on Mothola tea-estate in this district. Enquiries were instituted, and disclosed that Jitu had returned to his country two years ago. The girl was not traced. The case was accordingly filed.

Seven cases related to married women. One (Subhadra) is still pending, but the other six all resulted in definite action being finally taken by the authorities.

In one case a woman (Giribala) from Burdwan was suspected by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára to have been enticed away by the *arkatis*. At his request, the Magistrate of Burdwan instituted enquiries, which disclosed the fact that the woman had been enticed away by a woman (Rukmini), and sent to Dumduma tea-estate in this district. The coolie was examined, and her statement corroborated the result of the police enquiry. She added that she had signed the contract and described herself as a widow at Dhubri under orders of the Pande to whom Rukmini had taken her. The woman was repatriated at the expense of the garden.

In another case, two women (Barada and Sohagi) complained, immediately on arrival, to the manager of Jokai tea estate that they had been forced to come to Assam, and wished to return home. Their statements were recorded and enquiries made in the district of recruitment. Sohagi stated that she had gone willingly to Ranigunge to escort some female coolies, but thence had been fraudulently sent on to Assam, instead of being allowed to return home. The police enquiry proved her statement to be correct, and she was accordingly repatriated at the expense of the garden. The enquiries about Barada are not yet concluded.

The case of Sukurmani was instituted by the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum. The woman stated that she had cried at Ranigunge before the Sahib, who had accordingly ordered her to be sent home. She was, however, taken on to Dhubri after the Sahib had gone away. Her repatriation was ordered.

In another case, a girl of ten, named Berhu, had been put under contract, and was sent to court by the manager of the tea estate, with the sardár (her own uncle) who had recruited her. The statements of the girl and the sardár were recorded, and enquiries made in the recruiting country. The girl was found to have come willingly to her parents on the Chota Hapjan tea estate, with the consent of her young husband and his father whom she left in her own country. It was not discovered how the girl came to be put under agreement. Her contract was cancelled, but she was allowed to remain with her parents on the garden.

In another case the subdivisional officer of Pakour wrote concerning one Muki Sonthalini. Enquiries were instituted, and resulted in the discovery of the woman on the Tingkhang tea estate under the name of Rhymani. The subdivisional officer of Pakour, on being informed, wrote, stating that the woman was the wife of Anu Sonthali, and that the persons who had enticed her away had been convicted and imprisoned. The case was then reported to the Chief Commissioner under section 11A of Act I of 1882, with a recommendation that the woman be sent back. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, then called for the woman's statement. Muki stated that she had been enticed by Sonatan *arkati* to forsake her husband (Anu), and go and live with him. She had accordingly signed a contract of her own free will, and started for Assam in advance of Sonatan. She was willing to return home only on condition that some Sonthali should go with her. This statement was forwarded to the Commissioner, who said he thought the husband ought to redeem the contract, as Muki had executed it willingly under illicit expectations, but called for copy of the judgment in the criminal case before passing orders. A copy was obtained and sent to the Commissioner, who, on receipt of this and copy of a letter to the Chief Commissioner from the Bengal Government, reported to the Chief Commissioner that he was of opinion that the woman should be repatriated and her contract cancelled. The woman was accordingly sent back to her husband, and her contract cancelled.

In the last case relating to married women, one Jasoda complained, when brought up for verification of her contract, that she had been forcibly brought to Assam by one Purna Dhobi, but admitted that she had signed a contract. She appeared to be a respectable woman of the cultivator class. Enquiries were instituted in the recruiting district, and disclosed that her husband had followed in search of his wife to Assam, and was now working on a different garden. An exchange was effected between the managers of the two estates, and man and wife were left to work out their contracts together.

Of the six cases relating to boys, none resulted in any final action. In one case the subject of enquiry was not traced in spite of an exhaustive search. In three other cases enquiry was made by the Magistrate of the recruiting district, and the boys' statements were recorded at Dibrugarh. All the boys were found to be over sixteen years of age, and no fraud was proved.

In the case of Sambhu Bauri the coolie was sent to the subdivisional officer, Jamtara, to depose against his recruiters in a criminal case, but was returned to his garden, as the case had been dismissed.

In case No. 13 the Magistrate of Champaran requested the examination of three coolies, alleged to be thirteen years of age, in reference to a case of kidnapping. Eventually two of the boys were found, the third having previously absconded. These two were about twenty years of age. Their statements were recorded. The cases of kidnapping were struck off.

Of the seven cases relating to men, two resulted in repatriation. In the case of Kamal no fraud was proved, but the coolie was certified by the Civil Surgeon to be unfit for work on account of ill-health. His repatriation was ordered under section 142C, at the expense of the Inland Labour Transport Fund. In the second case a batch of five coolies was sent back, because the Civil Surgeon certified all of them to be unfit for work. One was suffering from *beri-beri*, and the other four were of unsuitable classes (three Kayasthas and one Brahmin). A letter was sent to the Superintendent of Emigration, pointing out that Mr. * * * , contractor, required supervision, as he recruited unsuitable coolies.

In one case the subject of enquiry was found to have died of small-pox two months previously. In the other four cases no fraud was proved, and the coolies were found to have executed contracts. Accordingly no final action was taken.

Statement of wrongful recruitment cases.

18. The Officiating Chief Commissioner has thought it advisable to give a full account of the cases of wrongful recruitment in which the labourers reached the actual labour district. The cases enquired into at Dhubri do not require such full description, as action is often taken at that station on mere suspicion. The following table shows, in a convenient form, the number of cases reported in 1892 and 1893, in which complaints in connection with recruitment were made in each labour district, and the number in which the complaints were found true, found false, and not proved respectively :

District.	Complaints.		True cases.		False cases.		Not-proved.		Pending.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sylhet	2	10	1	2*	1	8	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Darrang	2	6	1	2	...	1	...	2	1	1
Nowgong	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Sibságar	11	15	...	2	2	8	3	4	6	1
Lakhimpur	10	23	1	7	5	9	9	4	4	3
Total	36	55	3	13	8	27	14	10	11	5

* In one case a batch of 126 coolies from the Santhal Parganas were fraudulently recruited.

There are two points which deserve special notice in connection with these cases. In the first place, in the majority of cases, it is not the coolies themselves who have been brought up to the labour districts who complain, but their relatives and others in the recruiting districts whom they have left. Secondly, the complaints are quite as frequent regarding coolies who have been registered and placed under contract in the recruiting districts, as they are regarding coolies placed under contract at Dhubri, or brought up as free (non-contract) emigrants. These results seem to show that the proposed system of initial registration, *i.e.*, registration *somewhere in the recruiting districts* (for, as was clearly shown during the recent discussion, it would not be practicable to enforce registration in the actual area of an emigrant's residence, or even in that of his recruitment), regarding which so much was said while the amendment of Act I of 1882 was under discussion, would have been of no practical efficacy in checking malpractices. As pointed out by the Government of India, the only classes of cases in which it is necessary to guard against malpractices, *i.e.*, cases of recruitment by fraud or misrepresentation, or by taking advantage of the temporary impulses or the desire of women and young people to leave their homes, are those against which initial registration would be no remedy at all ; for the labourers, though under the influence of deception or enticement, would, at the time of registration, be themselves willing and anxious to emigrate.

In future, District Officers should show clearly in their reports which of the coolies said to have been wrongfully recruited were under contracts under the Act, and where such contracts were executed, *i.e.*, in the recruiting districts, at Dhubri, or in the actual labour districts.

On the whole, the results reported seem to Mr. Lyall to warrant the following conclusions, which are similar to those which have been expressed by his predecessors in charge of this Administration during the four years in which the question of amending the labour law has been under discussion :

(1) that there are no malpractices peculiar to the system of non-Act (unregistered, or free, or assisted) emigration, which would not be equally likely to occur in a system of purely Act emigration ;

(2) that there are few, if any, malpractices in recruitment peculiar to the labour system (*i.e.*, the system of contracts) sanctioned by the Act, which would not be equally likely to occur if there were no system of Act contracts ; the malpractices, such as they are, arise from the excessive demand for labour and from the difficulty of finding and transporting it ; and

(3) that these malpractices do not prevail to such an extent that they cannot, so far as the Assam Province is concerned, be effectively controlled and remedied by executive action under the ordinary law and under the Labour and Emigration Laws (Act I of 1882 as amended by Act VII of 1893, and Bengal Act I of 1889).

CHAPTER II.

LABOUR FORCE.

Statistics of the labour force.

19. The following figures taken from the statement which forms an Appendix to this Report, show the additions to, and deductions from, the total labour force of the Province during the year 1893 :

Labour force remaining at the end of the year 1892 (column 2 of statement appended to the Report)		461,245
Additions—		
Imported by contractors or garden sardárs, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4 and 5 of statements)	50,675	
Local labour contracts entered into under sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement)	21,313	
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement) ...	5,802	
Deserters recaptured (column 9 of statement) ...	510	
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement)	22,403	
Otherwise obtained (column 11 of statement) ...	20,557	
Births	11,653	
Total	132,913	
Deductions—		
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement)	4,057	
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement)	61,889	
Deaths (column 18 of statement)	15,982	
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	19,062	
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement)	12,806	
Contracts cancelled under sections 111, 140, or 177, Act I of 1882 (column 23 of statement) ...	87	
Contracts cancelled under section 122 (column 24 of statement)	1,305	
Contracts redeemed under section 142 (column 28 of statement)	13	
Contracts dissolved by mutual consent (column 29 of statement)	664	
Total	115,865	
Net increase during the year		17,048
Grand total at the close of the year		478,293

These figures show that the total labour force at the end of 1893 was 3·6 per cent. in excess of the labour force at the end of 1892.

20. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning and end of each of the last three years and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1893 :

Mean strength of the labour force.

Class of labourers.	1st January 1891.	1st January 1892.	1st January 1893.	1st July 1893.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1893.	31st December 1893.	Mean strength for the second half-year of 1893.
Act adults	101,904	111,639	117,529	125,475	121,502	119,792	122,633
Non-Act ... Adults ...	147,453	158,146	172,497	185,050	178,773	179,368	182,209
Non-Act ... Children ...	158,783	167,518	171,219	179,192	175,205	179,133	179,162
Total	408,140	437,303	461,245	489,717	475,481	478,293	484,005

21. The total labour force of each district and the variations in strength during the year 1893 are given below :

District figures of the labour force.

District.	1st January 1893.	31st December 1893.	Percentage of total provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	103,964	106,819	22·3	+ 2,855	+ 2·7
Sylhet	97,102	100,170	20·9	+ 3,068	+ 3·1
Total Surma Valley	201,066	206,989	43·2	+ 5,923	+ 2·9
Kámrúp	3,414	3,192	·7	— 222	— 6·5
Darrang	51,572	51,522	10·8	— 50	— ·09
Nowgong	16,342	16,375	3·4	+ 33	+ ·2
Sibságar	101,766	108,997	22·8	+ 7,231	+ 7·1
Lakhimpur	87,085	91,218	19·1	+ 4,133	+ 4·7
Total Assam Valley	260,179	271,304	56·8	+ 11,125	+ 4·2
Grand total	461,245	478,293	100·0	+ 17,048	+ 3·6

22. The nationality and sex of the adult labour force at the beginning and end of 1893 are shown in the following table :

Nationality and sex of the adult labour force.

Nationality.	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal — Chota Nagpur	Men ...	37,243	36,801	34,389	36,011	71,632	72,812	47·8
	Women...	33,134	33,757	33,105	36,512	66,239	70,269	
Bengal — Behar ...	Men ...	4,734	5,083	6,743	6,992	11,477	12,075	7·5
	Women...	3,479	3,839	6,050	6,416	9,529	10,255	
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa.	Men ...	8,849	9,861	18,840	19,310	27,689	29,171	20·9
	Women...	9,392	11,062	21,677	22,186	31,069	33,248	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	5,656	5,192	20,558	20,508	26,214	25,700	16·5
	Women...	4,381	4,161	19,038	19,458	23,419	23,619	
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	1,025	1,248	285	401	1,310	1,649	1·0
	Women...	799	959	287	340	1,086	1,299	
Madras	Men ...	2,767	2,264	1,877	2,068	4,644	4,332	2·9
	Women...	2,470	2,116	1,993	2,243	4,463	4,359	
Bombay	Men ...	8	4	31	33	39	37	·0
	Women...	4	3	15	16	19	19	
Nepal	Men ...	51	48	50	113	101	161	·0
	Women...	24	22	50	56	74	78	
Assam	Men ...	2,145	1,847	5,592	4,927	7,737	6,774	3·4
	Women...	1,368	1,525	1,917	1,778	3,285	3,303	
Total	Men ...	62,478	62,348	88,365	90,363	150,843	152,711	...
	Women...	55,051	57,444	84,132	89,005	139,183	146,449	
Grand total... ...	.....	117,529	119,792	172,497	179,368	290,026	299,160	...

N.B.—The differences between the entries in columns 3, 5, and 7 and those in columns 4, 6, and 8 of the statement embodied in paragraph 17 of the Report for 1892 are due to causes explained at foot of the statement at the end of this Report.

The proportion of Act and non-Act and all adult labourers belonging to each nationality is shown below :

Nationality.	1892.	1893.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act labourers.	Total.
Bengal ... Chota Nagpur	48·2	58·9	40·4	47·8
Bengal ... Behar	7·2	7·4	7·5	7·5
Bengal Proper and Orissa	21·1	17·5	23·1	20·9
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	15·1	7·8	22·5	16·6
Central Provinces	0·9	1·8	·4	1·0
Madras	3·4	3·7	2·4	2·9
Bombay	0·1	0·1	.....	.....
Nepal	0·1	.....	.....	.....
Assam	3·9	2·8	3·7	3·3
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Mean strength of the labour force in each district.

23. The mean strength of the labour force in each district for each half-year and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertion are calculated on these figures :

District.	Act.			Non-Act.						Total annual strength.		
				Adults.			Children.					
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar ..	7,958	7,962	7,960	58,113	58,907	58,510	40,489	41,118	40,803	106,560	107,987	107,272
Sylhet ..	7,461	8,258	7,859	52,360	52,364	52,412	40,040	40,872	40,456	99,961	101,495	100,728
Kámrúp ..	904	830	867	1,402	1,389	1,395	1,140	1,117	1,128	3,447	3,336	3,391
Darrang ..	24,519	23,982	24,251	12,235	12,161	12,198	15,936	16,521	16,228	52,689	52,664	52,677
Nowgong ..	4,240	4,161	4,200	6,783	6,911	6,847	6,060	6,027	6,043	17,083	17,100	17,091
Sibságar ..	35,742	39,783	39,762	25,424	27,650	26,537	41,402	42,751	42,076	106,569	110,185	108,377
Lakhimpur ..	36,677	37,656	37,166	22,366	22,825	22,590	30,137	30,755	30,446	89,170	91,236	90,203
Total ..	121,502	122,633	122,067	178,773	182,209	180,491	175,205	179,162	177,183	475,481	484,005	479,743

The total annual mean strength of the labour force has risen rapidly during the last few years. The average labour force for the last eight years has been as follows :— 1886, 301,349 ; 1887, 320,408 ; 1888, 347,371 ; 1889, 386,532 ; 1890, 406,089 ; 1891, 429,148 ; 1892, 457,717 ; 1893, 479,743. The proportion between the labour force and the total acreage under tea cultivation (which may be taken as representing the amount of work required from the labour force) will be examined in a later paragraph (paragraph 63) of this Report.

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

Number of contracts made.

24. The number of labour contracts under the Act executed in 1893, as compared with the number executed in 1892, is shown below :

	1892.	1893.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Under section 111 of the Act in the actual labour districts	21,050	18,610	−11·5
„ „ 112 „ „ „ „ „	862	2,703	+213·5
At Dhubri	15,946	13,567	−14·9
In the recruiting districts	5,021	12,837	+155·6
Total	42,879	47,717	+11·3

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

25. The following table shows the number of local contracts under sections 111 and 112 of the Act and the sex and nationality of the labourers entering into such contracts.

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality									Total of columns 3 and 4.
				Chota Nagpur.	Behar.	Bengal Proper and Orissa.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Central Provinces.	Madras.	Bombay.	Nepal.	Assam.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	Men	194	340	100	65	98	254	5	12	..	..	....	534
	Women	113	294	49	55	99	199	2	2	..	..	1	407
	Total of 1893	307	634	149	120	197	453	7	14	..	..	1	941
	„ „ *1892*	*925*	*421*	*251*	*285*	*170*	*421*	*35*	*183*	..	..	*1*	1,346
Sylhet	Men	2,042	200	732	438	530	179	51	312	..	..	....	2,242
	Women	1,580	175	530	309	566	119	18	212	..	..	1	1,755
	Total of 1893	3,622	375	1,262	747	1,096	298	69	524	..	..	1	3,997
	„ „ *1892*	*3,036*	*2*	*614*	*570*	*515*	*794*	*47*	*493*	..	*1*	*4*	*3,038*
Kámrúp	Men	.....	4	....		....	2	....	....	..	..	2	4
	Women	.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	..	...	....
	Total of 1893	.....	4	....	....	....	2	....	....	..	..	2	4
	„ „ *1892*	*52*	*1*	*17*	*5*	*19*	....	....	....	..	*1*	*11*	*53*
Darrang	Men	2,164	221	1,119	85	244	123	43	32	..	1	738	2,385
	Women	1,612	87	846	64	287	128	10	36	..	..	328	1,699
	Total of 1893	3,776	308	1,965	149	531	251	53	68	..	1	1,066	4,084
	„ „ *1892*	*4,216*	*89*	*2,122*	*114*	*483*	*174*	*9*	*20*	..	*2*	*1,381*	*4,305*
Nowgong	Men	134	30	98	10	42	2	....	5	....	..	7	164
	Women	108	9	68	5	37	....	2	1	..	..	4	117
	Total of 1893	242	39	166	15	79	2	2	6	..	..	11	281
	„ „ *1892*	*231*	*15*	*136*	*18*	*73*	*3*	....	....	..	..	*16*	*246*
Sibságar	Men	3,899	228	2,495	357	492	143	78	39	4	3	516	4,127
	Women	3,027	181	2,076	231	476	124	56	39	1	2	203	3,208
	Total of 1893	6,926	409	4,571	588	968	267	134	78	5	5	719	7,335
	„ „ *1892*	*8,548*	*289*	*5,142*	*1,033*	*1,472*	*379*	*20*	*245*	*2*	*3*	*541*	*8,837*
Lakhimpur	Men	2,069	581	2,194	72	244	24	30	49	..	..	37	2,650
	Women	1,668	353	1,676	40	227	30	4	24	..	..	20	2,021
	Total of 1893	3,737	934	3,870	112	471	54	34	73	..	..	57	4,671
	„ „ *1892*	*4,042*	*51*	*3,403*	*103*	*386*	*96*	*13*	*36*	..	..	*56*	*4,093*
	Grand total of 1893	18,610	2,703	11,983	1,731	3,342	1,327	299	763	5	6	1,857	21,313
	„ „ *1892*	*21,050*	*868*	*11,685*	*2,128*	*3,118*	*1,867*	*124*	*977*	*2*	*7*	*2,010*	*21,918*

There was a general decrease in all districts except Sylhet and Nowgong (where, however, the number of such contracts is insignificant) in the number of contracts entered into under section 111 of the Act, *i.e.*, contracts entered into in the actual labour district between employer and labourer direct without the intervention of a Government Officer. Contracts entered into under section 112 in the presence of the Magistrate increased in all districts. These results necessarily follow from the amendments made in the above-mentioned sections by Act VII of 1893. Contracts under section 111 can now only be executed for a term not exceeding one year (instead of five years as before). Consequently in cases in which a local contract for more than one year is desired, the labourer has to execute it under section 112 before a Magistrate. The Chief Commissioner will await the results of further experience before expressing any opinion on the practical effects of this change in the law; but the district reports do not show that they have so far brought about any serious disturbance of the existing labour system. The total number of local contracts remains much the same (21,918 in 1892, as compared with 21,313 in 1893), and the only important difference, so far, has been that a larger proportion of them has been executed in the presence of the Magistrate.

The above statement shows that local contracts are made use of only to a small extent in Cachar, Kámrúp, and Nowgong, while they are largely resorted to in the other districts, especially in Sibságar. In Sylhet, the number executed shows a considerable increase over the number executed in 1892, and is almost double the number executed in 1891. This is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the present excessive demand for labour in that district in consequence of the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The Deputy Commissioner notices, however, that it is chiefly in the South Sylhet subdivision that local contracts have increased, while such contracts have not been made much use of in Karimganj, through which the Railway also passes. The special circumstances of the Karimganj subdivision were fully brought out in the enquiry made into the working of the labour system in 1889. The system of free (assisted and unassisted) emigration and free (non-contract) labour has made so much progress here that employers probably think it undesirable, even if it were practicable, to take any steps towards a return to the Act system.

Details of local contracts.

26. The following table gives details of local contracts executed in the actual labour districts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the periods of the contracts :

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			New	Time-expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two and a half years.	3	4	Under five years.	5
Cachar	307	634	631	309	....	1	....	337	....	....	550	54	....	....
Sylhet	3,622	375	1,279	2,718	....	....	....	2,829	5	....	1,163	....	....	....
Kámrúp	....	4	....	2	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	4	....	....
Darrang	3,776	308	....	3,251	....	833	21	2,325	776	....	695	100	....	167
Nowgong	242	39	18	149	114	....	....	217	22	2	16	15[a]	....	9
Sibságar	6,941	409	1,741	5,333	....	276	282	2,682	1,529	137	2,517	81	71	51
Lakhimpur	3,737	934	62	4,574	....	35	9	2,572	1,342	....	439	243	....	66
tal of 1893	18,625†	2,703	3,731	16,336	114	1,147	312	10,962	3,674	139	5,380	497	71	293
„ „ *1892*	*21,042*	*868*	*5,415*	*14,092*	*3*	*2,400*	*117*	*7,533*	*6,073*	*87*	*6,681*	*225*	*97*	*1,097*

[a] Includes one contract of three years and a half.

† The difference between this entry and that against "Grand total of 1893" in column 3 of the table in paragraph 25 showing nationality of labourers entering into local contracts, and in column 6 of the statement at the end of the Report, is in the case of Sibságar, and is attributed to the fact that some managers did not show the figure in this year's return, as it was shown in the previous year's return, the contracts having been executed by the latter part of December 1892, but these contracts, though executed in 1892 and reported by the managers in that year, were received in January 1893 for registration in the Sibságar office, so they were omitted in the Report for 1892.

The figures in the column of this table showing "new" coolies, as already pointed out, do not agree in all cases with those given in the statement shown in paragraph 9 of this Report. The expression "new" appears to be differently interpreted in different districts. In some districts it seems to include not only newly-imported coolies, but also coolies of the immigrant classes settled in the Province entering into first engagements on gardens. In future, the heading "Newly imported, *i.e.*, imported during the year under report," should be substituted for the heading "New." The figures should then agree with the correspond-

ing figures in the statement in paragraph 9. Immigrant coolies imported in a previous year and immigrants settled in the labour districts (other than "time-expired" coolies or "old Act coolies transferred") will be shown under the head of "Local coolies." The Officiating Chief Commissioner is aware that there will be some difficulty in ascertaining which of the labourers executing local contracts—and specially those making contracts under section 111—are really "newly-imported" as defined above, and that the figures, at best, will only be approximate; but he hopes that every effort will be made to secure correct information.

The only point to notice about this table is that, as might have been expected from the changes made by the Act of 1893, there is a large increase in the number of contracts entered into for not more than one year, and a corresponding decrease in the number of contracts for periods more than a year. The few contracts shown as executed for periods over four years were entered into during the first quarter of 1893, before the revised Act came into operation.

Period of contracts executed at Dhubri.

27. The figures for 1892 and 1893 showing the periods of the contracts executed at Dhubri are as follows:

Year.	Three-year contracts.			Four-year contracts.			Five-year contracts.			Total contracts.		
	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.
1892	1,536	1,196	2,732	...	...	...	14,410	5,436	19,846	15,946	6,632	22,578
1893	1,073	501	1,574	6,153	2,099	8,252	6,341	3,175	9,516	13,567	5,775	19,342

These figures show that the proportion of three-year contracts to the total number executed at Dhubri was less than in the previous year. In future there will, of course, be no five-year contracts.

Verification of contracts.

28. The following table shows the extent to which local contracts executed direct between employer and labourer were verified by the Magistrate or Inspector during 1893:

District.	Number of contracts under section 111.			Number verified.	Number not verified on account of					Percentage of contracts verified	
	Remaining unverified at close of previous year.	Executed during the year.	Total.		Expiry of contract.	Death or desertion of labourer.	Sickness.	Other causes.	Total.	(a) On total number of contracts.	(b) On contracts capable of verification.
Cachar ...	126	307	433	343	4	13	35	38	90	79·2	82·4
Sylhet ...	786	3,622	4,408	2,920	163	250	27	1,048	1,488	66·2	100·0
Kámrúp ...	5	.....	5	2	1	.....	...	2	3	40·0	100·0
Darrang ...	1,363	3,776	5,141	3,786	137	27	54	1,137	1,355	73·6	97·6
Nowgong ...	84	242	326	200	48	4	...	74	126	61·3	100·0
Sibságar ...	4,360	6,941	11,301	8,948	584	138	46	1,585	2,353	79·1	98·9
Lakhimpur ...	1,555	3,737	5,292	3,192	395	12	10	1,683	2,100	60·3	100·0
Total ...	8,281	18,625	26,906	19,391	1,332	444	172	5,567	7,515	72·0	99·1

These figures show that nearly three-fourths of the contracts executed were verified by the subsequent production of the labourers executing them before a Government officer on his visit to the estate. From the nature of things, a certain number of such contracts are incapable of verification, as the labourer may be sick or have gone to his own country to recruit, or the contract may have expired, on the date of the visit to the garden. Excluding such contracts, the percentage of contracts verified on the total number capable of verification was 99·1—a proportion which seems too good to be

accurate. The Officiating Chief Commissioner observes that a very large number of contracts are put down as incapable of verification owing to "other causes." Care should be taken to see that no contracts are so described, unless it is quite clear that the employer was unable, through no fault of his own, to produce the contracting labourer before the inspecting officer. Although the subject of verification has now lost some of its importance owing to the maximum term of direct contracts having been reduced to one year, the law still makes it obligatory on the employer to cause the labourers entering into local contracts to appear before the inspecting officer, and a new provision (section 111B) has been enacted, which empowers the officer to require the employer to produce before him, at his headquarters, any labourers who were not produced at the time of his visit to the estate. In cases, therefore, in which the employer has not exhausted every possible means of securing the attendance of the labourers at the time of the visit, he should be required to produce them subsequently at headquarters.

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

29. The following table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such expiries reported by managers, and the number of contracts which were cancelled or determined during the year under the different sections of the Act :

District.	Number shown in garden returns as time-expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111A.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111B.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, section 120.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 129.	Number cancelled by magistrate under section 140.	Number cancelled by magistrate under section 140A.	Number redeemed under section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar ...	1,621	1,616	16	10	.....	40	.....	15	.....	1	5
Sylhet ...	2,626	2,626	9	.....	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	1	...
Kámrúp ...	154	154	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	2	1
Darrang ...	6,546	5,877	28	.....	.....	222	.....	.....	.....	1	47
Nowgong ...	869	869	.....	.....	.....	137	.....	.....	1	.....	15
Sibságar ...	10,743	10,865	1	.....	.....	201	.....	.....	.....	4	570
Lakhimpur ...	8,472	8,472	7	.....	.....	651	.....	.....	.....	4	26
Total of 1893 ...	31,031	30,479	61	10	.....	1,305	.....	15	1	13	664
„ „ *1892* ...	*30,207*	*28,342*	*83*	.....	.....	*1,647*	.....	.....	.....	*10*	*82*

Section 141.—*Notice of expiration of contracts.*—There is a considerable improvement in the extent to which employers have complied with this important provision of the law. The largest number of defaults (669) was in the Darrang district. The Deputy Commissioner reports that the whole of this was due to three gardens, the managers of which had left the district, and could not, therefore, be punished.

Sections 111A *and* 111B.—*Cancelments of local contracts.*—Of the contracts entered into direct between employer and labourer, 71 were subsequently cancelled by the Magistrate or Inspector, as compared with 83 in the previous year. The number of cancelments in the years immediately preceding had been as follows :—1891, 57 ; 1890, 24 ; 1889, 156 ; 1888, 181 ; 1887, 20 ; 1886, 133. When it is considered that several thousands of such contracts are executed and verified each year, it will be obvious that the number of cancelments is extremely small. As explained in the Special Report of 1889-90, these contracts are cancelled for a variety of reasons, *e.g.*,—

(1) by the mutual consent of employer and labourer without further reasons ;

(2) irrespective of the consent of the employer when there are reasons to suppose that they were not willingly entered into by the coolie, or that there was some material irregularity to the prejudice of the coolie in their execution ;

(3) irrespective of the consent of the employer for any other sufficient reason urged by the coolie, *e.g.*, physical incapacity not amounting to the permanent incapacity referred to under section 122 ;

(4) irrespective of the consent of either party when any of the conditions required by sections 9 and 11 of the Act are not fulfilled.

Section 122.—*Cancelments of contracts for physical incapacity.*—The following table shows the number of contracts cancelled during 1892 and 1893 owing to the labourers becoming permanently incapacitated from carrying them out :

District.	Contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act.	
	1892.	1893.
Cachar	37	40
Sylhet	103	50
Kámrúp	3	4
Darrang	142	222
Nowgong	100	137
Sibságar	188	201
Lakhimpur	1,074	651
Total	1,647	1,305

In many cases the labourers, whose contracts were cancelled, were newly-imported coolies physically unfit for tea-garden work. In Lakhimpur the number of cancelments was, as in the previous year, very large ; but no explanation is given whether the labourers concerned were newly-imported coolies or old hands. This should be explained in future reports, if the number of these cancelments continues large ; and it should also be stated, if possible, whether the coolies were recruited through sardárs or contractors.

Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.—The number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent has been as follows in each district during the last two years :

District.	Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.	
	1892.	1893.
Cachar	3	5
Sylhet	17	...
Kámrúp	...	1
Darrang	27	47
Nowgong	12	15
Sibságar	4	570
Lakhimpur	19	26
Total	82	664

The number of cancelments by mutual consent has increased considerably during the year, especially in Sibságar. The Deputy Commissioner of this district explains—

Of the 570 contracts dissolved by mutual consent, only 47 were cancelled with a view to putting an end to the contract and allowing the coolies to return to their homes, and two coolies remained on the garden with their friends. Out of the 47 cases in which the coolies returned to their own homes, 42 were Cachari coolies. The rest were cancelled with a view to substituting fresh agreements.

Possibly the change made in the local contract system by the new law limiting direct contracts under section 111 to one year may account for the increase, temporary contracts having been entered into under section 111 on the garden and converted into permanent contracts under section 112 when a convenient opportunity occurred of appearing before the Magistrate ; but the matter should have been more fully explained by the Deputy Commissioner.

Section 142.—*Redemption of contracts.*—Only 13 contracts were redeemed in 1893, as compared with 10 in 1892 and 6 in 1891. Contracts for one year may be redeemed at any time by the labourer on payment to the employer of a sum not more than Rs. 12 ; and the full redemption value of a contract for two years is Rs. 48. There must have been during 1893 a daily average of 8,000 to 10,000 coolies under contract for one year or less ; and probably about the same number under contract for periods between one year and two years. The fact that only 13 contracts were redeemed (including contracts entered into by new immigrants just come to Assam), while it was well within the means of the labourers to redeem thousands of them, is a satisfactory test of the generally good relations between employers and labourers.

30. Section 121 of the Act permits the employer to move the Inspector to extend, under certain conditions and restrictions, a labourer's labour contract by the number of days during which he was absent from labour owing to sickness. Section 170 makes similar provision in respect of wilful absences from labour in other cases. As usual, these sections were practically not taken advantage of by employers during 1893 to procure the extension of labour contracts. Regarding the use of section 121, definite information is not given as to the Nowgong district; in the other districts it is reported that no case occurred in which any contract was extended. Regarding the use of section 170, definite information is not given in the Lakhimpur report; from the other reports it appears that some few employers send in lists of absentees under section 170, but the days of absence were actually added to the contract in one or two cases only in the Darrang and Sibságar districts.

The extent to which the second paragraph of section 121 and section 170 of the Act are acted upon.

31. The following table gives certain particulars regarding the repatriation, during the past two years, of labourers whose contracts were determined under section 122:

Repatriation of labourers.

District.	Number of contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122.		Number of coolies repatriated.		Number of coolies who will be repatriated when a sardár is available to accompany them.		Number of coolies who preferred to remain on the garden or in the district.		Number of coolies who died.		Number of coolies who absconded.		Number of coolies sent to the lunatic asylum.		Amount paid by Government over and above the three months' wages paid by employers.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
															Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	37	40	32	24	..	..	5	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	26 8 0	37 0 6
Sylhet	103	50	73	42	5	..	25	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	569 13 9	219 7 6
Kámrúp	3	4	3	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	5 2 0
Darrang	142	222	142	143	..	..	..	52	..	14	..	13	..	..	.....	.....
Nowgong	100	137	64	127	..	..	34	9	2	1	..	..	..	..	.....	95 4 0
Sibságar	188	201	153	153	..	..	34	40	..	6	..	1	1	1	102 11 9	437 12 3
Lakhimpur	1,074	651	678	375	..	..	369	276	16	..	11	..	..	..	2,073 15 6	290 3 0
Total	1,647	1,305	1,145	866	5	..	467	403	18	21	11	14	1	1	2,773 1 0	1,084 13 3

In future, the amount paid by Government towards repatriating labourers will be less, as the revised Act authorises the Inspector to realise the full cost of repatriation from the employers, or, if this is not done, to charge it to the Inland Labour Transport Fund.

32. The following tables give some idea of the actual amount of wages drawn from the gardens by Act and non-Act labourers, distinguishing the sexes, and by children. They are based on the enquiries made by officers inspecting the gardens. In each case the officer is required to ascertain the wages paid during the month previous to that in which the inspection was held. Two tables are given, the first showing the average wages for the year, and the second, in regard to districts from which this information has been reported, the average for the manufacturing and non-manufacturing seasons separately:

Wages of different classes of labourers.

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	Act ...	Men	4 13 1
		Women	3 8 6
	Non-Act ...	Men	4 8 6
		Women	4 3 6
		Children	1 8 9
North Sylhet ...	Act ...	Men	3 13 1
		Women	3 0 9
	Non-Act ...	Men	4 5 0
		Women	3 4 1
		Children	2 1 0
South Sylhet ...	Act ...	Men	3 8 4
		Women	2 8 4
	Non-Act ...	Men	4 8 2
		Women	3 4 8
		Children	1 13 3
Karimganj ...	Act ...	Men	4 13 3
		Women	3 6 9
	Non-Act ...	Men	4 2 7
		Women	3 1 8
		Children	1 14 2

				Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Habiganj	Act	Men		4 0 0
		Women		3 0 9
	Non-Act	Men		4 9 7
		Women		3 7 9
		Children		1 14 3
Kámrúp	Act	Men		4 8 0
		Women		3 8 7
	Non-Act	Men		4 9 10
		Women		3 12 5
		Children		2 4 11
Tezpur	Act	Men		5 11 8
		Women		4 7 3
	Non-Act	Men		4 14 11
		Women		3 3 7
		Children		2 8 3
Mangaldai	Act	Men		5 9 4
		Women		4 1 5
	Non-Act	Men		5 11 0
		Women		4 9 5
		Children		2 3 1
Nowgong	Act	Men		5 0 2
		Women		4 6 5
	Non-Act	Men		6 1 0
		Women		5 0 8
		Children		2 13 7
Sibságar	Act	Men		4 9 10
		Women		3 10 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 8 1
		Women		3 9 1
		Children		2 4 9
Lakhimpur	Act	Men		5 3 9
		Women		4 1 5
	Non-Act	Men		6 7 4
		Women		4 13 3
		Children		2 11 4

				Non-manufacturing, or cold-season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing, or rainy-season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar	Act	Men		4 11 0	4 10 1
		Women		2 8 8	3 4 9
	Non-Act	Men		5 9 2	5 2 1
		Women		4 7 0	4 6 11
		Children		2 7 8	1 1 4
Kámrúp	Act	Men		4 7 9	4 8 4
		Women		3 5 6	3 11 8
	Non-Act	Men		4 8 2	4 11 6
		Women		3 6 4	4 2 6
		Children		2 5 9	2 4 1
Nowgong	Act	Men		4 8 5	5 7 11
		Women		3 15 0	4 13 10
	Non-Act	Men		5 5 9	6 12 4
		Women		4 3 10	5 13 6
		Children		2 9 4	3 1 11
Sibságar	Act	Men		4 6 7	4 13 1
		Women		3 6 1	3 13 11
	Non-Act	Men		5 2 5	5 13 9
		Women		3 3 0	3 15 3
		Children		2 2 1	2 7 6
Lakhimpur	Act	Men		4 1 0	6 3 0
		Women		3 0 6	5 1 3
	Non-Act	Men		5 13 9	7 3 0
		Women		3 7 3	5 6 0
		Children		2 11 0	3 1 3

Information regarding the average wages in the manufacturing and non-manufacturing seasons is not given in the reports from Sylhet and Darrang. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang explains that this is because information regarding one month's wages only is shown in the inspection reports. As, however, some inspections are held in

the manufacturing and others in the non-manufacturing season, there would seem to be no difficulty in showing the average for each season separately. The Officiating Chief Commissioner will be glad if this is always done in future.

Certain explanations regarding statement of wages on tea-gardens.

33. The wages shown above do not of course represent the total expenditure incurred by employers on behalf of their labour force; they are exclusive of house accommodation, water-supply and sanitary arrangements, medical treatment and diet or subsistence allowance in cases of sickness, and food at certain contract rates, &c. The coolies have also, to a large extent, various collateral sources of livelihood, such as the cultivation of paddy and other crops, the rearing of live-stock and poultry, the hiring out of cattle and sometimes of carts, and petty trading of kinds, which they are, as a rule, permitted to engage in when their full time is not required for garden work. The *average* rate of wages (which is obtained by dividing the total sum paid as wages by the total number of labourers shown as working during the month in the attendance register) is moreover reduced by voluntary absences of coolies from garden work for these other pursuits, and in many cases by a certain proportion of the labourers having worked casually, or only for a few days, during the month. The inclusion of the latter in the calculation reduces the average monthly wages per head. The tables given above show that, on the whole, Act (contract) labourers earned less wages in 1893 than non-Act labourers. The chief reason for this is that the former contain in their body a large proportion of new importations, who are naturally less efficient as workers and less acclimatized, and therefore more liable to sickness than the old hands who are employed as non-Act labourers.

It has been suggested to the Chief Commissioner, by a gentleman who has taken much interest in the subject, that the average wages earned by tea-coolies should be shown separately for each subdivision in the Province (as is done in the case of the Sylhet and Darrang districts), and that it should be accompanied by an account of the food-supplies available in the subdivision and the prices of food-grains, so as to enable an idea to be formed of the purchasing value of the wages paid in each area. There are, however, as shown above, two other items of at least equal value with the question of the prices of food-grains, *viz.*, (1) the collateral means of livelihood of tea-garden coolies, and (2) the extent to which the average wages are reduced by merely casual workers. It has to be borne in mind in this connection that the maximum contract rate at which rice has to be supplied to Act (contract) labourers by employers is Rs. 3 per maund, and that the rate at which flour has to be similarly supplied (in the Sylhet district) is Rs. 4-4-0. It seems hardly necessary to go into these points year after year, as the subject was threshed out in the enquiry made in 1889-90, and the results fully stated in Mr. Quinton's Special Report. The fact is that the statements of wages, when reduced to a tabular form, are not of much practical value in enabling an idea to be formed as to the actual condition of the labourer in each of the areas separately shown, because the circumstances of different districts, and of different parts of, and even of individual gardens in, the same district, differ so widely in respect of the matters mentioned above. In the Special Report of 1890 it was pointed out that many of the circumstances which lead to a low average rate of wages are such as tend to make a garden popular with coolies; and that there were three classes of gardens, popular with coolies, on which the *average* wages must, as a general rule, be low—(1) gardens working to any great extent through free (non-contract) labour, local or immigrant, on which the manager must necessarily allow the labourers to have their own way as to working on the garden or absenting themselves from garden work; (2) gardens with an abundant labour-supply, on which the manager is saved the necessity of putting pressure on the coolies to work, and can afford to allow them, except perhaps at the height of the busy season, to work on the garden or to follow other occupations as they please; (3) gardens largely employing local labourers who reside outside the estate and who have their own occupations to follow, and look upon their garden work only as a subsidiary source of livelihood.

The question of wages is, therefore, one which can only be considered satisfactorily with reference to all the circumstances of each particular garden. It is an important duty of inspecting officers to examine the question from all its bearings when visiting an estate, and to take steps to remedy anything which appears wrong.

At the same time the Officiating Chief Commissioner thinks that it would be useful if the average rate of wages were shown separately for each subdivision of the tea districts in future, and if this were accompanied by a short account, regarding each subdivision, (1) of the state of the food-supply and prices of food-grains and any other necessaries required by coolies, and (2) of the extent to which collateral means of livelihood other than garden work are available to, or followed by, the coolies.

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES, INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

34. The following figures show the offences committed by the tea-garden population during each of the past two years—(1) under Act XIII of 1859, and (2) under Act I of 1882, excluding the offence of desertion, which is separately dealt with :

Offences committed by tea-garden population under Act I of 1882 and Act XIII of 1859.

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882.																		Total.	
	Section 151, garden sardar failing to report himself.		Section 153, garden sardar failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employers arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 182, enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.			
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	66	27	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	9	1	9	5
Sylhet	11	20	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	...	7	5	7	5
Kámrúp	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Darrang ...	16	12	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8	...	...	56	44	56	44
Nowgong ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	5	9	5	9
Sibságar	27	62	2	13	...	...	...	...	1	...	14	18	...	...	...	...	2	1	8	13	...	...	27	53	27	53
Lakhimpur ...	9	14	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9	2	1	...	...	...	1	5	3	...	...	24	17	24	17
Total ...	134	135	15	21	3	2	...	...	1	...	67	66	2	1	...	...	2	2	39	33	...	9	129	134	129	134

These figures show persons convicted, and not persons brought to trial. Forty-three persons were convicted for wrongful acts done, for the most part, as employers or on behalf of employers (sections 168, 172, 183, 185) ; 23 of the convicted persons were garden sardárs sent down to the recruiting districts to recruit (sections 151, 153) ; and 68 were ordinary labourers (sections 171, 178), who were nearly all convicted of the offence of wilful absence from labour without cause.

The following table shows the punishments inflicted for offences under Act XIII of 1859 for each of the past two years :

District.	Number of coolies convicted.		Number of coolies who were ordered to perform their contracts.		Number punished with imprisonment for—										Cases withdrawn.		Number of coolies ordered to pay their advances or pay compensation.	
					Five days.		One week.		Two weeks		Twenty days.		One month (or more).					
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	66	27	58	26	...	...	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Sylhet	11	20	10	20	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Darrang	16	12	16	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sibságar	27	62	17	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6[a]	...	12	9	15
Lakhimpur	9	14	9	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Total	134	135	111	113	...	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	2	7	3	12	10	15

[a] This includes two sentences for two months ; in 1892 there were no punishments for more than one month.

As usual, considering the number of labourers who are under civil contracts to labour on an estate enforcible under Act XIII of 1859, the number of actual punishments inflicted is extremely small. Out of many tens of thousands of labourers, only seven were sentenced to imprisonment. The convictions under this Act for breach of contract are really more of the nature of civil than criminal trials, in so far as, in the large majority of cases, either the labourer elects, on conviction, to complete his contract, or the employer is willing to allow the labourer to bring his contract to an end by refunding the amount advanced to him. Thus the cases in which criminal penalties are enforced are extremely rare.

35. The following table shows the offences against the Penal Code and other laws committed by the tea-garden population during the last two years :

Offences committed by the tea-garden population against the general criminal law.

District.	Penal Code.																								
	Adultery.	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit culpable homicide.	Murder.	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass.	Lurking house trespass.	House trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Criminal misappropriation.	Criminal breach of trust.	Laying false complaint.	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Defacing coin, stamps.
Cachar ...	...	7	23	...	...	1	3	2	1	29	...	2	...	...	...	4	1	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	...
Sylhet ...	...	7	6	...	...	1	1	1	8	16	4	6	...	1	...	13	...	...	5	1	1	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	...	6	10	2	...	...	...	...	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Nowgong ...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	5	...	1	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Sibságar ...	...	22	5	1	6	5	7	27	11	31	6	11	1	...	...	9	...	7	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Lakhimpur ...	...	4	12	1	...	...	27	14	8	56	...	...	7	...	5	13	...	2	3	...	3	...	...	2	...
Total of 1893 ...	...	50	56	4	6	7	40	48	30	152	10	20	10	8	5	44	1	2	16	4	7	1	1	5	...
„ „ 1892 ...	...	65	52	1	2	10	51	15	11	165	10	8	18	10	10	45	1	3	10	...	9	4	2	2	3

District.	Penal Code—*continued.*																										
	Insult.	Wrongful confinement.	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	Dealing with fire, &c., so as to endanger human life (section 285).	False prosecution.	Defamation (section 500).	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Enticing away a married woman.	Outraging female modesty.	Rape.	Resistance to lawful apprehension.	Exposure of infants.	Enticement.	Obstructing tax-collector.	Criminal force to public servant.	Misconduct in public by drunken persons.	Delivery of coins not genuine.	Attempting to commit offence.	False information.	Total.	Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
Cachar	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86	1	10	97
Sylhet	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	77	11	61	149
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12
Darrang	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	2	...	44
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20
Sibságar	..	2	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	162	9	34	205
Lakhimpur	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	164	9	31	204
Total of 1893	4	7	4	4	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	563	32	136	731
„ „ *1892*	*3*	*20*	*8*	*4*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*1*	*1*	...	*1*	*1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*552*	*24*	*72*	*648*

This statement shows that there has been an increase in the number of convictions of garden coolies during 1893 for offences against the general criminal law. The increase has occurred chiefly under the heads of "Causing hurt," "Grievous hurt," and "Offences under other Acts." The increase in offences under "Other Acts" occurred in Cachar, Sylhet, and Sibságar. The greater part of it represents convictions for offences against the excise laws. This probably does not mean that a greater number of offences connected with the manufacture and sale of illicit liquor was actually committed by garden coolies during 1893 than during 1892, but that there was better detection. The number of convictions of garden coolies for offences against the general law has increased considerably in late years. In 1886-1888 the yearly average was 434; in 1893 it was 731. But at the same time the garden population has increased from an annual average of 301,349 in 1886 to 479,743 in 1893. Taking the figures for 1893, the result is that the number of convictions (731) represents a percentage of ·15 on the total annual average population. The total population of the Assam Province is 4,971,917, and the total number of convictions in 1892 (13,210) represents a percentage on it of ·26. So that the proportion of reported crime to population is much smaller among garden coolies than among the general population. This comparison, of course, excludes special offences under Act I of 1882, or Act XIII of 1859, to conviction for which the garden population is peculiarly liable; if these are included, the percentage of convictions is much greater among them than among the general population.

The following table, which includes all convictions of tea-garden coolies, *i.e.*, under the general law, under Act I of 1882 including convictions for desertion, and under Act XIII of 1859, compares the proportion of convictions and of sentences of imprisonment to the adult tea-garden population during each of the last two years:

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per cent. of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	59,153	66,470	270	204	149	164	55	80
Sylhet	57,942	60,271	199	223	152	121	76	54
Kámrúp	2,454	2,262	3	35	1	29	33	82
Darrang	35,496	36,418	312	232	162	157	51	67
Nowgong	10,860	11,047	83	81	54	56	65	69
Sibságar	61,322	66,299	484	592	298	362	61	61
Lakhimpur	56,589	59,757	568	548	479	427	84	77
Total	283,819	302,558	1,919	1,915	1,295	1,316	67	68

This table calls for little comment. As has been pointed out on former occasions, the proportion of sentences of imprisonment to convictions is naturally high, owing to the fact that imprisonment is the only appropriate punishment, having regard to their condition in life, for many of the offences for which garden coolies are convicted.

Provincial and district figures for desertion.

36. The following table shows the number of desertions among the adult tea-garden population, district by district, for the past two years:

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non-Act.		Percentage of desertions on strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	3,536	3,726	920	1,154	2,616	2,572	12·55	14·49	5·03	4·30	5·97	5·60
Sylhet	3,986	4,808	797	908	3,189	3,900	11·12	11·52	6·28	7·43	6·86	7·97
Kámrúp	357	303	129	127	228	176	13·46	14·37	15·05	12·61	14·52	13·35
Darrang	1,203	1,644	697	1,108	506	536	2·93	4·57	4·32	4·38	3·38	4·51
Nowgong	446	485	214	269	232	216	5·37	6·39	3·37	3·16	4·10	4·39
Sibságar	1,995	2,148	1,292	1,152	703	996	3·32	2·89	3·14	3·82	3·24	3·24
Lakhimpur	2,054	2,021	1,492	1,455	562	566	4·32	3·91	2·53	2·50	3·61	3·38
Total	13,577	15,135	5,541	6,173	8,036	8,962	4·74	5·05	4·80	4·96	4·78	5·00

These figures show a very considerable increase in desertions generally throughout the Province. It must be remembered, in considering this table, that the non-Act coolies shown as deserters are not deserters in the strict sense, as many of them were probably not even under a civil contract to labour on the garden, and have been included by employers in the statement of deserters merely in the sense of having left the garden without permission. It is suggested in some of the district reports that the increase in the proportion of desertions in 1893 is due to the present unusual demand for labour owing to the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The explanation is a probable one, although the Officiating Chief Commissioner is satisfied that all available precautions are taken by the Railway authorities against the employment of deserters. In comparing the *number* of deserters during these two years, it must be remembered that the garden population has also increased during 1893, as the following table shows:

District.	Percentage of increase or decrease of labour force, as compared with the previous year (excluding children).	Percentage of increase or decrease of desertions, as compared with the previous year.
Cachar	+ 2·48	− ·37
Sylhet	+ 2·41	+ 1·11
Kámrúp	− 7·72	− 1·17
Darrang	− 3·38	+ 1·13
Nowgong	+ ·95	+ ·29
Sibságar	+ 7·36	.....
Lakhimpur	+ 5·04	− ·23
Total	+ 3·14	+ ·22

In years previous to 1892 the percentage of deserters on total adult population was as follows:—1891, 4·02; 1890, 4·30; 1889, 4·35; 1888, 4·70; 1887, 4·50; 1886, 4·62. The increase in 1893 may reasonably be put down to the increased demand for labour owing to the operations of the railway.

Arrests and convictions.

37. The following table shows for each district—(1) the number of desertions of labourers under contract under Act I of 1882, (2) the number of warrants issued for the arrest of such deserters, (3) the number of such deserters arrested, and (4) the number convicted of the offence of desertion (section 175, Act I of 1882):

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar ...	1,154	111	15	71	5	3	94	89
Sylhet ...	908	46	28	26	.....	.....	54	49
Kámrúp ...	127	.....	.....	18	5	.....	23	17
Darrang ...	1,108	214	49	77	9	.....	135	132
Nowgong ...	269	46	3	47	2	.....	52	52
Sibságar ...	1,152	109	40	138	95	9*	282	270
Lakhimpur ...	1,455	225	305	39	.....	.....	344	313
Total of 1893 ...	6,173	751	440	416	116	12	984	922
„ „ *1892* ...	*5,541*	*521*	*158*	*752*	*143*	*2*	*1,055*	*992*

* This includes 8 coolies who appeared voluntarily.

These figures show that less than one-sixth of the total number who deserted were arrested. The facilities for getting away and procuring employment elsewhere are so great in Assam that the majority of deserters find little difficulty in making good their escape.

38. In compliance with the instructions of the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, the following figures are given, showing the proportion of desertions to total labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens, separately. These figures do not, as the previous tables, relate only to adults, but also include children.

Proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens respectively.

District.		Mean strength.		Number of desertions.		Percentage of desertions to labour force.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
Cachar ...	*Healthy gardens* ...	*86,074*	*87,130*	*2,076*	*1,605*	*2·41*	*1·84*	*4·25*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	20,486	20,857	702	656	3·42	3·14	6·56
Sylhet ...	*Healthy ,,* ...	*99,218*	*100,759*	*3,021*	*3,447*	*3·04*	*3·42*	*6·45*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	742	736	34	54	4·58	7·33	11·91
Kámrúp ...	*Healthy ,,* ...	*2,041*	*1,959*	*118*	*116*	*5·78*	*5·92*	*11·70*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	1,406	1,377	90	40	6·40	2·90	9·30
Darrang ...	*Healthy ,,* ...	*45,335*	*45,456*	*704*	*738*	*1·55*	*1·62*	*3·17*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	7,355	7,208	200	148	2·71	2·05	4·76
Nowgong	*Healthy ,,* ...	*12,884*	*12,815*	*207*	*204*	*1·61*	*1·59*	*3·20*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	4,199	4,285	81	69	1·93	1·61	3·54
Sibságar ...	*Healthy ,,* ...	*95,342*	*98,435*	*1,178*	*827*	*1·23*	*0·84*	*2·07*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	11,227	11,749	238	200	2·11	1·70	3·81
Lakhimpúr	*Healthy ,,* ...	*81,853*	*83,566*	*999*	*918*	*1·22*	*1·09*	*2·31*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	7,317	7,670	171	221	2·33	2·88	5·21
Total ...	*Healthy ,,* ...	*422,747*	*430,120*	*8,303*	*7,855*	*1·96*	*1·82*	*3·78*
	Unhealthy ,, ...	52,732	53,882	1,516	1,388	2·87	2·57	5·44
Grand total ...	...	475,481	484,005	9,819	9,243	2·06	1·90	3·96

The total percentage of deserters (3·96), it will be observed, is less than that shown in the table in paragraph 36 (5 per cent.). The reason for this is, that children are included in this statement. It is not coolies with families who desert as a rule, but coolies who are solitary men and women (chiefly men) without family ties on the garden. The proportion of desertions from unhealthy gardens is, as might have been expected, much greater than the proportion from healthy gardens. The unhealthiness of the garden is, no doubt, the chief cause of this; but there are also other causes. In the first place, unhealthy gardens are, as a rule, those which are the most undermanned with labour, and, secondly, owing to this reason, they have to depend more on contractors for their recruitment than healthy gardens, and contractors' recruits consist largely of solitary men and women who come up without families, and are, therefore, more liable to desert.

39. The following tables show the punishments inflicted during the past two years on Act labourers for desertions from healthy and unhealthy gardens, separately:

Punishments for desertions in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens, respectively.

A.—From Healthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	125	75	4	1	1	1	77	19	..	..	2	13	14	11	2	.	7	25	15	1	3	4*
Sylhet	71	49	..	1	1	..	3	3	8	2	7	2	23	12	18	2	3	11	4	8	4	8
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	85	121	2	..	..	1	9	7	7	1	..	14	26	..	1	6	11	71	2	5	..	16†
Nowgong	26	31	2	..	..	..	11	10	..	9	7	6	6	2	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..
Sibsagar	137	162	3	1	1	2	50	71	19	9	5	13	24	20	3	3	11	21	16	19	5	3
Lakhimpur	180	291	3	..	3	..	25	47	34	37	24	53	31	81	22	23	20	12	6	15	12	23‡
Total	624	729	14	3	6	4	175	157	68	58	45	101	124	126	46	34	52	143	43	49	24	54

* This includes one discharged.
† Of these, 14 persons were sent to gardens.
‡ Of these, 1 person was fined and 4 were ordered to return to garden.

B.—From Unhealthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act Labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for.																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar ...	10	14	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	9	...	2*
Sylhet ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Kámrúp ...	1	17	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	10
Darrang ...	70	11	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	11	...	3	...	12	9	11	...	1	1
Nowgong ...	24	21	1	...	...	1	16	11	...	3	1	...	6	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Sibságar ...	122	108	6	2	2	...	44	42	6	3	7	1	26	87	2	...	10	12	14	3	5	8
Lakhimpur	136	22	...	...	4	...	11	2	23	6	14	6	59	1	12	2	10	3	2	1	1	1
Total ...	368	193	9	2	6	1	84	55	31	13	23	7	104	43	17	3	32	33	27	14	9	22

* Were fined.

On this subject the Officiating Chief Commissioner can only repeat what was said last year, *viz.*, (1) that the district reports show that, in passing sentences on deserters, due weight is, as a rule, given to the fact that the desertion was from an unhealthy garden; and (2) that the mere absence of a plea of unhealthiness, or the mere fact of the deserters themselves not having been in bad health, is no reason for supposing that the desertions were not connected with the unhealthiness of the garden. The proportion of sentences of imprisonment for one month or more passed on deserters from unhealthy gardens in the Sibságar and Nowgong districts is relatively high; and the Deputy Commissioners should see that the attention of all Magistrates in those districts is directed to the necessity of considering in each case, before passing sentence, whether the garden is unhealthy or not. There may sometimes be some difficulty in doing this, as the unhealthiness of a garden in any particular case may not be established till the end of the year when the returns of

mortality are submitted, and it may not always be known at the time of the trial whether the garden was or was not actually unhealthy at the time when the desertion took place. But Magistrates should in all trials for desertion enquire specially into the point whether the garden was or was not unhealthy, and in the majority of cases they will probably have no difficulty in ascertaining this.

Nationality and sex of deserters.

40. The following table shows the nationality and sex of the coolies who deserted :

Nationality.	Sex.	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Bengal—Chota Nagpur	Men	1,767	1,897	1,225	1,390	2,992	3,287	4·74	5·00	3·54	3·89	3·66	3·52
	Women	669	672	939	1,094	1,608	1,766	2·01	1·95	2·99	3·09		
Bengal—Behar	Men	394	497	366	381	760	878	8·53	9·71	5·73	5·50	5·81	6·17
	Women	162	164	250	332	412	496	4·03	4·27	2·62	5·19		
Bengal—Bengal Proper and Orissa	Men	469	650	947	994	1,416	1,644	5·14	6·67	4·47	5·16	4·08	4·35
	Women	222	253	798	788	1,020	1,041	2·43	2·37	3·91	3·55		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	Men	722	811	1,497	1,948	2,219	2,759	13·51	14·48	8·85	9·27	8·05	8·15
	Women	313	306	1,083	1,080	1,396	1,386	7·89	6·88	6·55	5·53		
Central Provinces	Men	155	197	17	37	172	234	16·75	16·17	3·54	10·35	9·61	12·54
	Women	52	94	14	22	66	116	7·43	10·36	3·85	7·21		
Madras	Men	248	219	115	99	363	318	9·05	8·45	5·86	4·95	6·04	5·46
	Women	115	105	67	72	182	177	4·80	4·47	3·57	3·36		
Bombay	Men	2	.....	4	.....	6	.....	6·29	.....	2·21	.....	2·93	1·72
	Women	.....	.....	6	1	6	1	.....	.....	3·64	6·25		
Nepal	Men	48	8	18	22	66	30	65·02	10·14	11·86	19·86	22·35	12·16
	Women	8	.....	2	2	10	2	43·04	.....	2·02	3·81		
Assam	Men	167	262	612	569	779	831	6·92	13·18	8·24	8·31	6·73	8·21
	Women	28	38	76	131	104	169	2·10	2·62	3·94	6·92		
Total	Men	3,972	4,541	4,801	5,440	8,773	9,981	6·35	7·06	5·38	5·89	5·78	6·37
	Women	1,569	1,632	3,235	3,522	4,804	5,154	2·89	2·81	4·12	3·99	3·62	3·52
Grand total	.....	5,541	6,173	8,036	8,962	13,577	15,135	4·47	5·05	4·80	4·96	4·78	5·00

There is nothing special to notice as regards the nationality of deserters. It is natural that the proportion of deserters should be high among Nepal coolies (most of whom are probably domiciled in Assam) and Assam coolies, as these classes are not immigrants in the proper sense, and have the greatest facilities for desertion. The number of desertions has always been large among coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The Officiating Chief Commissioner regrets to notice that the largest proportion of desertions is among coolies from the Central Provinces. As, however, immigration from these provinces is of recent origin and as separate figures for the Central Provinces coolies have only been shown for two years, it is difficult to draw any sound inferences from them.

As regards the sex of the deserters, the statement is instructive as bearing out what has already been said in paragraph 38, that it is chiefly solitary men and women without family ties, and mostly men, who desert from tea-gardens. Female deserters are less numerous, partly because a female would naturally have greater difficulty in making good her escape, and also partly because her chances of employment elsewhere on other than tea-garden work are limited, whereas there is always employment readily available all over the Province for male labourers. It may be noted, before closing this chapter, that the coolies who desert from tea-gardens are mostly new hands who have been less than one or two years on the garden; among old hands desertions are comparatively rare. This was fully brought out in the special enquiry into the working of the labour system made in 1889-90.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

41. The following table shows the birth-rate per mille on tea-gardens during each of the past two years calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

Birth-rate.

District.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	94·8	81·1
Sylhet	80·5	80·7
Kámrúp	66·9	79·8
Darrang	65·7	68·5
Nowgong	75·4	74·4
Sibságar	91·6	90·2
Lakhimpur	79·7	73·0
Total	83·5	79·7

The table below distributes the births among the different nationalities, and shows the birth-rate among each class calculated on the mean strength of adult females :

Birth-rate according to nationality.

District.	Chota Nagpur.			Behar.			Bengal Proper and Orissa.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Central Provinces.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	8,923	724	81·1	3,171	258	81·3	11,948	970	81·1	8,207	666	81·1	81	4	49·3
Sylhet	7,395	607	82·0	2,793	237	84·8	6,372	553	86·7	1,478	945	82·3	207	5	24·1
Kámrúp	405	25	61·7	35	3	85·7	524	52	99·2	27	....	..	5	..	....
Darrang	8,973	663	73·8	733	28	38·2	3,145	360	95·3	1,206	30	24·8	316	7	22·1
Nowgong	3,241	265	81·6	212	12	56·6	748	37	49·5	178	13	73·0	75	1	13·3
Sibságar	19,700	1,800	91·3	2,231	183	82·0	6,053	659	108·8	2,176	112	51·4	223	14	62·7
Lakhimpur	21,101	1,558	73·8	1,036	53	51·1	3,966	274	69·0	964	74	76·7	316	16	50·6
Total of 1893 ..	69,742	5,642	80·9	10,913	774	75·7	32,758	2,845	86·8	24,240	1,840	75·9	1,226	47	38·3
„ „ *1892* ..	*64,377*	*5,419*	*84·1*	*9,132*	*726*	*79·5*	*29,412*	*2,608*	*88·6*	*20,459*	*1,722*	*84·1*	*1,055*	*78*	*73·9*

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Nepal.			Assam.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	418	33	78·9	9	1	111·1	20	2	100·0	158	14	88·6	32,941	2,672	81·1
Sylhet	2,169	106	48·8	5	1	200·0	6	..	..	21	4	190·4	30,446	2,458	80·7
Kámrúp	21	..	..	1	..	....	....	..	..	157	14	89·1	1,177	94	79·8
Darrang	650	14	21·2	....	..	....	29	4	102·5	1,767	107	60·4	16,830	1,153	68·5
Nowgong	91	6	65·9	....	..	....	....	..	..	482	40	83·0	5,029	374	74·4
Sibságar	615	29	47·1	4	..	....	4	..	..	614	58	94·4	31,626	2,855	90·2
Lakhimpur	511	38	74·4	....	..	....	6	2	333·3	128	32	250·0	28,031	2,047	73·0
Total of 1893	4,477	226	50·4	19	2	105·2	75	8	106·6	3,329	269	80·8	146,083	11,653	79·7
„ „ *1892* ..	*4,338*	*269*	*62·0*	*195*	*6*	*30·7*	*119*	*5*	*42·0*	*3,247*	*227*	*69·9*	*132,339*	*11,060*	*83·5*

42. The second of these tables calls for no remarks. The registered birth-rate was very low among all classes of coolies containing any considerable number of women. As regards the first table, the reason why the birth-rate is calculated on the strength of adult females and not on the total tea-garden population, is that the male population largely preponderates over the female on tea-estates, and the ratio calculated on the total population would not give a fair impression. But even as calculated on adult females, the birth-rate has been steadily diminishing for some years past, as the figures in the margin show. In the Bengal and Assam provinces, the population of adult females (*i.e.*, 15 years of age and over) was returned at 21,681,841 and 1,525,586 respectively at the census of 1891, the number of births reported in 1892 was, respectively, 1,981,960 and 155,909. This gives 9·14 and 10·22 births per hundred adult females, compared with which the tea-garden birth-rate is very low. As a matter of fact, it is well known that the actual birth-rate among the general population in these two provinces is much above the reported rate. It is difficult to find any reason which would account for the diminution of the birth-rate on tea-gardens. It cannot be due to deterioration in the health of the garden population, for, as will be shown below, there has been a steady improvement in the death-rate in recent years. The only conclusion possible is that the registration of births on gardens is defective. But it has still to be explained why it should be getting more and more defective every year. In the Special Report of 1890 it was suggested as a possible reason that this might be due to the annually increasing number of coolies who live, not in the garden lines, but in villages outside it, among whom births would naturally be more likely to pass unnoticed than among coolies living on the actual lines. But whatever the reasons for bad registration may be, the Officiating Chief Commissioner can only look to inspecting officers and managers of gardens to improve it. It should not be supposed that the registration of births is a minor matter, and not one of equal importance with the registration of deaths. The system of inspection of gardens by medical officers proposed last year by Mr. Ward has just been sanctioned by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, and it will be possible to enquire into this point more minutely than has been done hitherto. Orders have also issued in the Resolution of the Chief Commissioner on the Provincial Sanitary Report for 1893, which will secure a more careful examination of vital statistics, including the statistics of tea-gardens, with a view to ascertaining the areas in which registration is defective, and of remedying the defects as far as possible.

	Percentage.
1882	13·31
1883	11·94
1884	11·32
1885	11·51
1886	10·29
1887	10·02
1888	10·32
1889	10·39
1890	8·98
1891	9·42
1892	8·35
1893	7·97

43. The statistics of mortality for the year and for each half-year separately are given in the table below, with the corresponding figures of the previous year:

Death-rate for the year.

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers, including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	2,045	1,124	1,997	2,232	4,042	3,356	19·7	10·5	19·0	20·6	38·7	31·1
Sylhet	1,578	1,089	1,953	1,554	3,531	2,643	16·6	10·8	19·9	15·3	36·5	26·1
Kámrúp	125	77	137	105	262	182	33·2	22·3	37·4	31·4	70·6	53·7
Darrang	1,397	822	1,354	1,360	2,751	2,182	28·1	15·6	26·2	25·8	54·3	41·4
Nowgong	495	336	418	391	913	727	29·4	19·7	24·8	22·8	54·2	42·5
Sibságar	1,941	1,376	2,041	2,098	3,982	3,474	19·5	12·9	20·0	19·0	39·5	31·9
Lakhimpur	1,619	1,557	2,150	1,861	3,769	3,418	19·3	17·4	24·6	20·4	43·9	37·8
Total	9,200	6,381	10,050	9,601	19,250	15,982	20·3	13·4	21·6	19·8	41·9	33·2

The death-rate thus fell to the low figure of **33·2** per **1,000**. The year **1893** was a generally healthy year throughout Assam, and also, it is believed, in most other parts of India; so that a low death-rate on tea-gardens was to be expected. But it is satisfactory that in three out of the last four years the garden death-rate has been low. The following figures show that since the introduction of Act I of 1882, a considerable improvement has been effected in the rate of mortality of garden coolies:

	Death-rate per mille.	
1876	51·1	
1877	50·9	
1878	66·1	
1879	50·9	Average 47·6
1880	35·2	
1881	31·7	
1882	37·8	
1883	41·3	
1884	43·2	
1885	36·8	„ 39·2
1886	39·8	
1887	36·2	
1888	39·8	
1889	41·8	
1890	34·3	
1891	36·8	„ 37·9
1892	41·9	
1893	33·2	

The following table may be useful as showing how the mortality on tea-gardens stands, as compared with the reported death-rate among the general population in each province in India for the last three years for which complete figures are available to the Chief Commissioner:

Province.	Death-rate per mille.			Average.
	1890.	1891.	1892.	1890-92.
Madras	22·8	26·2	22·3	25·6
Bombay	28·18	27·26	32·50	29·31
Bengal	24·48	26·94	31·92	27·78
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	37·27	31·14	34·11	34·17
Punjab	46·87	29·13	49·48	41·83
Central Provinces	32·52	35·54	34·14	34·07
Assam	29·64	29·91	34·21	31·25
Hyderabad	35·4	40·6	28·8	34·9
Assam tea-gardens	34·3	36·8	41·9	37·6

In considering these figures, of course, allowances have to be made for different degrees of completeness and accuracy in the registration of vital statistics in the different provinces. This question was recently examined in a Resolution by the Government of India in the Home Department, and the conclusion arrived at was that in most provinces the mortality is greatly understated. The Census Commissioner has estimated 41 per mille as the average annual death-rate of an Indian population, and most of the above figures fall far short of this. On the Assam tea-gardens the registration of the deaths of adults is probably as complete and accurate as the registration in any province; the record of the deaths of children is not so well attended to, and is obviously defective. Making all allowances, the result is that the mortality on the Assam tea-gardens is probably somewhat higher than among the general population. This must always be expected, as there are on the tea-gardens many new immigrants not yet accustomed to the climate of Assam, who are peculiarly liable to sickness and death during the period of their acclimatization. But the above table shows that the difference between the mortality on the Assam tea-gardens and the reported mortality elsewhere is not so great as it is sometimes believed or represented to be.

Death-rate amongst adults.

44. The following table shows the mortality among both Act and non-Act adults during each of the past two years:

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	798	658	2,003	1,715	2,801	2,373	108·7	82·6	38·5	29·1	47·4	35·6	59,153	66,470
Sylhet	397	306	1,996	1,550	2,393	1,856	55·3	38·4	39·2	29·5	41·1	30·7	57,942	60,271
Kámrúp	110	82	99	50	209	132	115·0	95·5	65·8	35·8	85·1	58·4	2,454	2,262
Darrang	1,680	1,389	453	335	2,133	1,724	70·6	57·4	43·2	27·4	60·0	47·3	35,496	36,448
Nowgong	285	283	343	225	628	508	71·6	67·4	49·7	32·9	57·8	46·0.	10,860	11,047
Sibságar	2,162	1,666	658	663	2,820	2,329	55·5	41·8	29·4	24·8	45·9	34·9	61,322	66,299
Lakhimpur	2,077	1,940	764	648	2,841	2,588	60·1	52·1	34·4	28·6	50·0	43·3	56,589	59,787
Total	7,509	6,324	6,316	5,186	13,825	11,510	64·8	51·7	37·7	28·5	48·7	37·9	283,819	302,558

The Officiating Chief Commissioner is aware of no statistics with which the death-rate of Act coolies can fairly be compared. It has for many years past been recognized that a high death-rate must be expected among new immigrants in Assam. The reasons for this were fully given in the Special Report sent to the Government of India in 1890. The chief reasons for which the Act death-rate must always be high are—(1) most new immigrants to Assam are placed under Act contracts, and therefore a large proportion of Act coolies consists of unacclimatized persons, who are specially liable to sickness and death during the first two years or so of their residence in Assam; and (2) a large number of weakly coolies unfit to withstand the Assam climate and tea-garden work are sent up every year. All available steps are taken by the Administration to prevent this, and the responsibility of employers who import unfit coolies is strictly enforced; but it is natural that a certain proportion of the immigrants of each year should consist of weakly labourers, who emigrate chiefly because they are incapable of earning a decent livelihood in their own country. Except as regards new immigrants, the death-rate on tea-gardens is not at all excessive. It will be shown in a later paragraph (50 below) that the tea-gardens death-rate and the number of unhealthy gardens in any year rises and falls, generally speaking, *pari passu* with the number of new immigrants imported during the year and the increase or decrease in the proportion which such immigrants bear to the total labour force.

The death-rate of working non-Act adult coolies may fairly be compared with that of the Civil Police. Non-Act coolies are mostly acclimatized persons, and in respect of age and nature of employment and exposure to weather their case is similar to that of the police. The following table compares the average death-rate for the year 1886-1892—(1) among the Bengal and Assam Civil Police force, and (2) among non-Act adult coolies on tea-gardens:

	Average annual strength, 1886-1892.	Average number of deaths a year, 1886-1892.	Average annual death-rate per cent.
Bengal police*	23,465	523	2·2
Assam ,, ...	2,104	44	2·1
Non-Act adult coolies	140,294	4,519	3·2

* Bengal figures for 1892 not being available, figures for 1886-1891 have been taken.

These figures show that the death-rate of non-Act coolies, taken all together, is somewhat higher than that of policemen. But this result was to be expected, because (1) a certain, though small, proportion of non-Act coolies consists of new and unacclimatized immigrants; and (2) non-Act labourers include in their body a considerable number of old and infirm coolies, not themselves effective labourers, but dependents of labourers working on the estate.

45. The following table shows the recorded causes of deaths which occurred among labourers.

Causes of deaths among Act Act labourers during each of the past two years :

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1893.		Deaths from							Total of columns 4 to 10.			Annual rate of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	1893	7,958	7,962	235	227	.....	108	52	10	26	175	483	658	82·6
	1892	*7,204*	*7,417*	*192*	...	*177*	*169*	*56*	....	*204*	*309*	*489*	*798*	*108·7*
Sylhet ...	1893	7,461	8,258	35	1	84	40	32	2	112	113	193	306	38·4
	1892	*7,426*	*6,962*	*48*	...	*85*	*56*	*11*	...	*197*	*186*	*211*	*397*	*55·3*
Kámrúp ...	1893	904	830	8	2	12	8	27	...	25	32	50	82	95·5
	1892	*932*	*974*	*43*	...	*5*	*9*	*31*	...	*22*	*46*	*64*	*110*	*115·0*
Darrang ...	1893	24,519	23,982	87	114	308	116	350	216	198	516	873	1,389	57·4
	1892	*23,256*	*24,257*	*322*	...	*311*	*349*	*271*	...	*427*	*811*	*869*	*1,680*	*70·6*
Nowgong ...	1893	4,240	4,161	40	...	48	40	32	22	101	126	157	283	67·4
	1892	*3,907*	*4,063*	*31*	...	*56*	*15*	*17*	....	*166*	*145*	*140*	*285*	*71·6*
Sibságar ...	1893	39,742	39,783	210	149	403	108	141	...	655	654	1,012	1,666	41·8
	1892	*38,746*	*39,010*	*402*	...	*441*	*141*	*118*	...	*1,060*	*1,041*	*1,121*	*2,162*	*55·5*
Lakhimpur	1893	36,677	37,656	387	71	469	115*	309	...	589	943	997	1,940	52·1
	1892	*33,552*	*35,289*	*405*	...	*542*	*108*	*271*	....	*751*	*898*	*1,179*	*2,077*	*61·1*
Total ...	1893	121,502	122,633	1,002	564	1,324	535	943	250	1,706	2,559	3,765	6,324	51·7
	1892	*115,025*	*117,973*	*1,443*	...	*1,617*	*847*†	*775*	...	*2,827*‡	*3,436*	*4,073*	*7,509*	*64·3*
	1891	*105,943*	*110,825*	*818*	...	*1,157*	*565*†	*647*	...	*2,229*‡	*2,295*	*3,121*	*5,416*	*49·8*

* Includes other than malarious fevers.
† The heading of this column in previous years was "Jungle fever."
‡ Includes 354 deaths from dropsy in 1892, and 299 deaths from dropsy in 1891, which were separately shown in previous years, but excludes deaths from diarrhœa now separately shown for the first time.

46. The following table shows the recorded causes of deaths among adult non-Act coolies during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths amongst non-Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act coolies employed in 1893.		Deaths from								Total of columns 4 to 10.		Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	1893	58,113	58,907	465	325	.....	207	42	175	501		598	1,117	1,715	29·1
	1892	*51,474*	*52,211*	*221*	...	*379*	*360*	*21*	...	*1,022*		*1,122*	*881*	*2,003*	*38·5*
Sylhet ...	1893	52,460	52,364	224	...	372	199	59	...	696		610	940	1,550	29·5
	1892	*49,581*	*51,915*	*212*	...	*484*	*375*	*52*	...	*873*		*878*	*1,118*	*1,996*	*39·2*
Kámrúp ...	1893	1,402	1,389	7	...	5	11	5	...	22		24	26	50	35·8
	1892	*1,553*	*1,450*	*20*	...	*3*	*20*	*48*	...	*8*		*53*	*46*	*99*	*65·8*
Darrang ...	1893	12,235	12,161	26	11	61	49	17	80	91		140	195	335	27·4
	1892	*11,586*	*11,893*	*95*	...	*68*	*53*	*38*	...	*199*		*250*	*103*	*453*	*38·5*
Nowgong ...	1893	6,783	6,911	22	...	26	55	21	17	84		116	109	225	32·9
	1892	*7,014*	*6,737*	*27*	..	*51*	*39*	*19*	...	*207*		*213*	*130*	*343*	*49·7*
Sibságar ...	1893	25,424	27,650	100	52	116	59	26	...	310		289	374	663	24·8
	1892	*21,934*	*22,953*	*91*	...	*99*	*60*	*28*	...	*380*		*380*	*278*	*658*	*29·4*
Lakhimpur ...	1893	22,356	22,825	105	37	129	56*	73	...	248		331	317	648	28·6
	1892	*21,814*	*22,523*	*116*	...	*125*	*76*	*76*	...	*371*		*358*	*406*	*764*	*34·4*
Total ...	1893	178,773	182,209	949	425	709	636	243	272	1,952		2,108	3,078	5,186	28·5
	1892	*164,957*	*169,684*	*782*	...	*1,209*	*983*†	*282*	...	*3,060*‡		*3,254*	*3,062*	*6,316*	*37·7*
	1891	*154,249*	*159,614*	*979*	...	*908*	*895*†	*272*	...	*2,312*‡		*2,525*	*2,841*	*5,366*	*34·1*

* Includes other than malarious fevers.
† The heading of this column in previous years was "Jungle fever."
‡ Includes 388 deaths from dropsy in 1892, and 399 deaths from dropsy in 1891, which were separately shown in previous years, but excludes deaths from diarrhœa now separately shown for the first time.

47. The following statement shows the causes of deaths and death-rate among children (*i.e.*, from birth to sixteen years of age) during each of the past two years :

Death-rate amongst children.

District.	Mean strength of children in 1893.		Deaths from							Total of columns 4 to 10.			Total of 1892.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.		1893.	1892.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Cachar	40,489	41,118	133	...	292	145	4	...	409	351	632	983	1,241	24·0	27·5
Sylhet	40,040	40,872	91	...	189	223	24	...	260	366	421	787	1,138	19·4	29·5
Kámrúp	1,140	1,117	3	2	11	11	5	...	18	21	29	50	53	44·3	42·3
Darrang	15,936	16,521	12	41	137	85	29	46	108	166	292	458	618	28·0	40·9
Nowgong	6,060	6,027	12	...	43	53	6	4	101	94	125	219	285	36·2	47·7
Sibságar	41,402	42,751	60	84	328	223	14	...	436	433	712	1,145	1,162	27·0	29·6
Lakhimpur	30,137	30,755	39	39	184	211*	71	...	286	283	547	830	928	27·1	31·8
Total of 1893 ...	175,205	179,162	350	166	1,184	951	153	50	1,618	1,714	2,758	4,472	.....	25·0	.....
„ „ *1892* ...	*171,648*	*176,146*	*575*	...	*1,129*	*1,225*†	*167*	...	*2,329*‡	*2,510*	*2,915*	*5,425*	.....	.....	*31·1*

* Includes other than malarious fever.

† The heading of this column in previous years was "Jungle fever."

‡ Includes 192 deaths from dropsy in 1892, which were separately shown in previous year.

The recorded mortality among children reached the very low rate of 25 per 1,000. Although the Officiating Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the condition of children on tea-gardens is, on the whole, satisfactory, and that they are, as a rule, quite as well looked after as children in the villages, if not better, this low figure cannot be accepted as correct. It is clear that the registration of deaths of children is not as carefully attended to by employers as that of deaths of adults; and it is probable that the greatest number of omissions to register occur in connection with the deaths of non-working children. The fact that the registration of births is so defective is an additional reason for questioning the accuracy of the registration of deaths of children; where the births are passed unnoticed, it is much more likely that the deaths of young children will also remain unrecorded. The Officiating Chief Commissioner hopes that the measures indicated in paragraph 42 above for improving the record of births will also lead to an improvement in the record of the deaths of children. No death-rate can be accepted as correctly representing the mortality among children under sixteen on tea-gardens which falls below 40 per 1,000, or, at any rate, below 35 per 1,000.

48. The following statement illustrates the mortality among adult tea-garden coolies distributed according to nationality:

Mortality according to country of origin.

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Bengal — Chota Nagpur ...	Men ...	3,388	2,843	48·9	38·3	136,058	143,391
	Women ...	3,269	2,670				
Bengal — Behar ...	Men ...	669	577	58·0	44·3	20,084	22,237
	Women ...	499	412				
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa	Men ...	1,124	932	37·9	31·5	59,704	61,746
	Women ...	1,141	1,021				
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	1,393	1,165	56·1	41·9	42,697	50,838
	Women ...	1,128	966				
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	111	128	73·1	69·5	2,426	2,807
	Women ...	71	68				
Madras	Men ...	380	270	80·3	58·0	9,024	9,058
	Women ...	348	255				
Bombay	Men ...	8	3	29·4	51·7	408	57
	Women ...	4	.....				
Nepal	Men ...	9	18	32·3	88·8	340	266
	Women ...	2	5				
Assam	Men ...	187	116	21·4	14·5	13,075	12,156
	Women ...	94	61				
Total	Men ...	7,269	6,052	47·8	38·6	151,480	156,475
	Women ...	6,556	5,458	49·4	37·7	132,339	146,083
Grand total	.....	13,825	11,510	48·7	37·9	283,819	302,558

There is nothing special to notice in this statement. Excluding the Nepali coolies (among whom the ratio is calculated on a very small number of deaths), the Central Provinces and Madras labourers show, as in the previous year, the highest death-rate. The Behar and North-Western Provinces and Oudh labourers come next; and then coolies from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. It is probable, however, that the table is vitiated by misdescriptions of coolies. Several cases have come to the Chief Commissioner's notice during the year in which bad types of coolies from Behar or the North-Western Provinces and Oudh had been sent up to Assam described as junglies from Chota Nagpur.

49. The following statement shows the number and proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district during the last two years :

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

District.	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	186	187	20	22	10·7	11·7
Sylhet	119	119	16	2	13·4	1·6
Kámrúp	50	32	7	3	14·0	9·3
Darrang	90	88	33	17	36·6	19·3
Nowgong	56	55	11	8	19·6	14·5
Sibságar	223	181	32	15	14·3	8·2
Lakhimpur	143	143	24	8	16·7	5·5
Total	867	805	143	75	16·4	9·3

All gardens are classed as unhealthy on which not less than 10 deaths have occurred, and the death-rate on which exceeds 7 per cent.—(1) among the Act population taken separately ; (2) among the non-Act population taken separately, including children ; or (3) among the Act and non-Act population taken together, *i.e.*, on the total population.

It will be shown in later paragraphs how many of the unhealthy gardens in each district come under each of these three classes.

Previous to 1889, only those gardens were classed as unhealthy the mortality on which exceeded 7 per cent. calculated on the total population. In 1888 it was considered desirable to strengthen the control over unhealthy gardens, and it was decided to include in this category gardens on which the mortality exceeded 7 per cent. (the number of deaths being not less than 10) as calculated either on total population, or on Act or non-Act population taken separately. The new method was first brought into use in 1889, so that many gardens placed on the unhealthy list since then would not have appeared in previous years. The following table shows the number of unhealthy gardens in each district during the years 1882-1893, classified according to the old method in force before 1889 :

District.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Cachar	3	5	9	1	10	7	7	12	1	5	8	3
Sylhet	...	14	15	18	13	5	4	10	1	3	3	...
Kámrúp	2	2	3	3	...	...	2	1	6	4	5	1
Darrang	14	14	14	9	8	10	12	10	2	5	12	...
Nowgong	16	14	16	3	4	2	2	6	2	3	5	5
Sibságar	7	11	25	5	15	10	21	18	11	6	14	1
Lakhimpur	15	13†	11	3	14	15	17	12	5	4	8	4
Total	57*	73†	93‡	42§	64	49	65	69	28	30	55	14

* Of these, 13 gardens had less than 10 deaths on each.
† This includes two camps in which coolies recruited by a Local Board were located.
‡ The number of deaths on three gardens was less than 10.
§ Ditto two ditto

This table shows that the number of unhealthy gardens has decreased considerably in late years, the number for 1893 being the lowest on record since 1882.

Mortality and number of unhealthy gardens as affected by proportion of new immigrants.

50. It has already been stated (paragraph 44) that the only class of persons on tea-gardens among whom the mortality is excessive are new immigrants, and that the garden mortality rises and falls *pari passu* with the proportion of new immigrants to total population. The following table shows the proportion of new immigrants to the total labour force, the death-rate in each year from 1876 to 1893, and the number of gardens which were on the unhealthy list from 1880 to 1893 ; reliable figures for previous years are not available :

Year.	Number of new immigrants imported during the year.	Average labour force.	Total number of tea-gardens.	Number of unhealthy gardens calculated		Total tea-garden death-rate.
				By old method.	By new method.	
1876	34,283	124,323	800	.....	.....	51·1
1877	31,897	146,513	832	.....	.....	50·9
1878	43,061	172,569	913	.....	.....	66·1
1879	24,712	184,935	1,040	.....	.....	50·9
1880	15,913	188,497	1,055	48	.....	35·2
1881	17,116	194,182	1,070	60	.....	31·7
1882	22,559	200,099	1,010	57	.....	37·8
1883	32,138	279,867	1,023	73	.....	41·3
1884	45,511	267,855	966	93	.....	43·2
1885	29,398	280,574	935	42	.....	36·8
1886	30,894	301,349	921	64	.....	39·8
1887	36,463	320,408	895	49	.....	36·2
1888	46,293	347,371	892	65	.....	39·8
1889	55,658	386,532	896	69	118	41·8
1890	36,080	406,089	907	28	87	34·3
1891	49,968	429,148	872	30	89	36·8
1892	56,050	457,717	867	55	143	41·9
1893	50,675	479,743	805	14	75	33·2

This statement shows very clearly that, generally speaking, the garden death-rate tends to be high, and the proportion of unhealthy gardens to be large, when the proportion of new immigrants to the total labour population is high, and *vice versâ*.

Treatment of unhealthy gardens.

51. In the Provincial Report for 1892 the following summary was given of certain orders in force regarding the way in which unhealthy gardens should be dealt with. It is desirable to repeat this, as the orders are important and should not be overlooked :

(1) In these orders it has been pointed out to Deputy Commissioners that the fact that garden managers have taken all possible precautions against sickness and mortality on their gardens by adopting sanitary measures which have been recommended is no ground for not appointing a committee to enquire and determine whether the garden, or any portion of it, is or is not fit for the residence of labourers or of any particular class of labourers. If, in spite of all sanitary precautions,

a garden continues to be unhealthy year after year, the provisions of Act I of 1882, as recently amended, must be enforced, and the fact must be recognised that the Act cannot be maintained for the benefit of unhealthy gardens.

(2) It has also been pointed out that the importation of bad batches of coolies can no longer be accepted as a valid excuse for high mortality, and that managers of gardens must now be held responsible for importing such batches. As has been remarked by the Government of India, if managers permit the continued importation of a class of coolies large numbers of whom they are certain to lose, and if such a state of things is allowed to be repeated, and it becomes clear that those in charge of the garden either cannot or will not provide a remedy, the law should be put in force without hesitation, and the garden should be closed to the coolies of the class amongst which the mortality has occurred.

(3) District officers will be requested to inform all employers that the Chief Commissioner intends in future to insist on effect being given to these instructions, and at the same time to draw their attention to the provisions of sections 42A and 42B of the Act, as amended, in regard to the medical examination of labourers recruited through the agency of contractors.

(4) Further, with reference to the tendency of Inspectors to accept the plea of the occurrence of an epidemic as a sufficient reason for not enforcing the law against the garden concerned, the Chief Commissioner, while fully agreeing that such a plea is in many cases a valid one, and that action should not be taken under the Act in cases in which gardens ordinarily healthy are brought on the unhealthy list merely in consequence of the occurrence of an epidemic, is by no means prepared to admit that a plea of this nature should be accepted without examination ; and Deputy Commissioners have accordingly been instructed always to examine the circumstances with special reference to the question whether the occurrence of an epidemic has been caused by the existence of insanitary conditions on the garden concerned.

(5) Lastly, the instructions issued include a direction that committees, when appointed, must, in accordance with the terms of the law, always record a definite finding as to whether the estate concerned, or any portion of it, is or is not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers. In many cases it has been found impossible to take action on the reports of committees owing to the fact that no distinct finding as regards the above point was placed upon record. The attention of Deputy Commissioners will also be called to the necessity for recording in every case whether the finding of the committee is unanimous with reference to the provisions of section 129A of the amended Act.

There are two further points to be noticed on this subject. Hitherto it has been usual for the Civil Surgeon to visit, after the close of the year, every garden unhealthy in the previous year ; and, after receipt of the Civil Surgeon's report, it was decided whether it was necessary to convene a committee on the garden under section 128 of the Act, or to direct a special medical inspection under section 130, with a view to determining whether the estate, or any portion of it, was or was not unfit for the residence of labourers or of any particular class of labourers. Action under these sections is, of course, only taken in respect of estates unhealthy on the Act population. There are two kinds of enquiries —that authorised by section 128 when the estate is believed, independently of the actual results of mortality, to be unfit for the residence of labourers; and that authorised by section 130 when the mortality has actually exceeded 7 per cent. In the latter case, the District Magistrate has power under the revised Act at once to request the Civil Surgeon or District Medical Officer to hold an enquiry under section 130, and on the results of that enquiry the Local Administration may, if it thinks it necessary, close the garden to Act labour. Mr. Ward has now issued instructions, as regards the Assam Valley Division, that in cases falling under section 130, the District Magistrate should request the Civil Surgeon to hold an inspection under that section, as a matter of course, without awaiting orders from higher authority. These orders will be extended to the Surma Valley. The result will be that in future, as soon as the unhealthiness of a garden during the preceding year is ascertained, the coercive procedure of the Act will be put in force as a matter of course, and, if necessary, the garden will be closed to Act labour, or to the particular class of Act labour, for which it is found unfit.

The second point which calls for notice is one of great difficulty. From the proceedings of certain committees held under section 128 during the year, the Chief Commissioner learnt that the committees were unable to come to a finding whether the garden was unfit for the residence of any particular class of labourers, owing to the labourers being misdescribed in their contract papers. For instance, coolies from Behar or the North-Western Provinces and Oudh were misdescribed as coming from Chota Nagpur, and it was impossible to ascertain *ex post facto* to what class of coolies the mortality on the estate was really due. Mr. Ward is considering what steps should be taken to meet this difficulty. Meanwhile, he has instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára to see, as far as possible, that the coolies contracting at that station are correctly described in their contracts, and, if there is misdescription, to refuse to attest the contract. It is proposed to ask the Government of Bengal whether it would be possible to take similar action in that province.

52. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Cachar district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Ballacherra ...	145	88	...	10	10	...	113·6	113·6
	2. Bara Dudpatli ...	111	124	6	6	12	54·0	48·3	102·3
	3. Majargram ...	143	128	5	33	38	34·9	257·8	292·7
	4. Kumbir ...	107	124	2	14	16	18·6	112·9	131·5
	5. Pathicherra ...	193	200	8	26	34	41·4	130·0	171·4
	6. Thailu ...	172	182	7	35	42	40·6	192·3	232·9
	7. Marticherra ...	190	205	2	16	18	10·5	78·0	88·5
	8. Dewan ...	184	184	2	12	14	10·8	65·2	76·0
	9. Dhubidar ...	74	76	2	10	12	27·0	131·5	158·5
	10. Barakhai ...	198	175	5	16	21	25·2	91·4	116·6
	11. Ratanpur ...	61	62	6	5	11	98·3	80·6	178·9
	12 Katal ...	213	103	10	6	16	46·9	58·2	105·1
	13. Nagadum ...	86	122	4	32	36	46·5	262·2	308·7
	14. Chandighat ...	158	165	3	10	13	18·9	60·6	79·5
	15. Dulargram ...	246	252	3	36	39	12·1	142·8	154·9
Hailákándi {	16. Ainakhal ...	338	374	9	28	37	26·6	74·8	101·4
	17. Lakhinagar ...	216	237	6	17	23	27·7	71·7	99·4
	18. Hasiura ...	237	223	9	11	20	37·9	49·3	87·2
	Total ...	3,072	3,024	89	323	412	28·9	106·8	135·7

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery and diarrhœa.	Fever.	Respiratory diseases.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Ballacherra	5	1	1	1	1	1	10
	2. Bara Dudpatli ...	4	2	2	...	3	1	12
	3. Majargram	21	5	3	2	...	7	38
	4. Kumbir	10	3	2	1	...	...	16
	5. Pathicherra	25	4	2	...	...	3	34
	6. Thailu	31	3	5	2	...	1	42
	7. Marticherra	10	...	4	...	2	2	18
	8. Dewan	9	2	...	1	...	2	14
	9. Dhubidar	7	1	1	1	...	2	12
	10. Barakhai	13	1	1	1	3	2	21
	11. Ratanpur	6	2	1	...	...	2	11
	12. Katal	10	3	2	1	...	...	16
	13. Nagadum	25	4	1	2	1	3	36
	14. Chandighat	8	2	2	...	...	1	13
	15. Dulargram	25	5	3	2	1	3	39
Hailákándi {	16. Ainakhal	19	6	3	3	2	4	37
	17. Lakhinagar	15	2	2	1	1	2	23
	18. Hasiura	12	3	2	2	...	1	20
	Total	255	49	37	20	14	37	412

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Hailákándi ...	19. Rupacherra ...	1,103	1,149	22	60	82	19·9	52·2	72·1

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery and diarrhœa.	Malarious fever.	Respiratory diseases.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Hailákándi ...	19. Rupacherra ...	35	33	1	4	9	...	82

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	20. Bandhu ...	341	361	10	28	38	29·3	77·5	106·8
	21. Baladhan ...	709	736	11	56	67	15·5	76·0	91·5
	22. Heroncherra ...	860	814	14	52	66	16·2	63·9	80·1
	Total	1,910	1,911	35	136	171	18·3	71·1	89·4

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery and diarrhœa.	Fever.	Respiratory diseases.	Anæmia.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	20. Bandhu	18	6	3	3	3	5	38
	21. Baladhan	45	6	5	4	2	5	67
	22. Heroncherra ...	35	10	8	2	3	8	66
	Total	98	22	16	9	8	18	171

The following is a summary of the action taken with regard to the abovementioned gardens :

(1) *Ballacherra.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1892. A committee was held on the 26th March 1894, but no definite finding as to the unfitness of the estate for labourers or any class of labourers was recorded.

(2) *Bara Dudpatli.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1891, 1892, and 1893. A committee was held on it on the 27th March 1894, but no definite finding was recorded. It has been pointed out to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar that the committee should have come to a definite finding whether the estate, or any portion of it, was or was not unfit for the residence of labourers or of any particular class or classes of labourers. The garden should be inspected under section 130 of the Act by the Civil Surgeon, if the death-rate for the current year has, so far, been high.

(3) *Majargram.*—The Chief Commissioner considered a committee unnecessary on this garden, unless the mortality for the first half-year of 1894 proved to be unduly high.

(4) *Kumbir*, (5) *Pathicherra.*—These gardens have been unhealthy in 1891, 1892, and 1893. Kumbir was unhealthy in 1890 also. The high mortality during 1893 was entirely due to an outbreak of cholera. The Deputy Commissioner thinks that the gardens are in no way unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers, but he has been directed to hold committees on them if the mortality of the first half-year of 1894 is found to be high.

(6) *Thailu.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1891, 1892, and 1893. Two committees were held on it—one on the 24th August 1893, and the other on the 21st March 1894. The committee held in 1894 reported that the garden was unfit for North-Western Provinces and Behar coolies, and recommended that it should be closed to future importations of coolies of those classes. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to see that the committee's recommendation is enforced.

(7) *Martcherra.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the Deputy Commissioner's view that a committee on this garden is not needed, unless, on receipt of the first half-yearly returns of 1894, he finds the death-rate unduly high.

(8) *Dewan.*—The Deputy Commissioner will hold a committee on the garden, if, on receipt of the first half-yearly returns of 1894, he finds the death-rate unduly high.

(9) *Dhubidar.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. The Deputy Commissioner reports that the garden has been closed ; and no further action is needed.

(10) *Barakhai*, (11) *Ratanpur.*—The Deputy Commissioner will hold committees on these gardens, if, on receipt of the first half-yearly returns of 1894, he finds the death-rate unduly high.

(12) *Katal.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. A committee was held on the 10th April 1894, but it did not record a definite finding of the unfitness of the estate for the residence of labourers.

(13) *Nagadum.*—The Deputy Commissioner reports that this garden has been closed.

(14) *Chandighat.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. A committee was held on the 20th March 1894, but did not record a finding that the garden was unfit for labourers.

(15) *Dulargram*, (16) *Ainakhal*, (17) *Lakhinagar*, (18) *Hasiura, or Lalamukh.*—The Deputy Commissioner will hold committees on these gardens, if, on the receipt of the first half-yearly returns of 1894, he finds that the death-rate is unduly high.

(19) *Rupacherra.*—A committee will be held if the first half-yearly returns for 1894 show an unduly high death-rate.

(20) *Bandhu.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1891 and 1892. A committee, which was held on the 22nd March 1894, reported that the garden was unfit for North-Western Provinces and Behar coolies. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to see that the committee's recommendation is enforced.

(21) *Baladhan*, (22) *Heroncherra.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the Deputy Commissioner's view that it will not be necessary to hold committees on these gardens, unless, on receipt of the first half-yearly returns for 1894, it is found that the death-rate on either of them is unduly high.

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

53. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Sylhet district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Habiganj .	1. Begamkhan ...	122	139	3	7	10	24·5	50·3	74·8

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Habiganj .	1. Begamkhan ...	4	1	...	1	1	2	1	10

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Karimganj.	2. Bhubirghat ..	378	360	14	36	50	37·0	100·0	137·0

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Karimganj	2. Bhubirghat... ...	19	...	10	2	...	...	19	50

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together. The following action has been taken :

(1) *Begamkhan.*—This garden was unhealthy for the first time, and the Deputy Commissioner has been directed to see that certain recommendations made by the Civil Surgeon in his inspection report are carried out.

(2) *Bhubirghat.*—This garden was unhealthy for the first time on non-Act population. It was inspected by the Civil Surgeon on the 17th November 1893. The question of holding a committee on it or of taking other coercive measures under sections 128-132 of the Act does not arise, as there are no Act-I labourers on the estate.

54. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Kámrúp district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Chunsali	113	101	18	14	32	159·3	138·6	297·9
2. Sonapur	182	157	4	11	15	21·9	70·0	91·9
3. Amchong	175	185	2	11	13	11·4	59·4	70·8
Total	470	443	24	36	60	51·0	81·2	132·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Chunsali	3	...	7	3	...	...	19	32
2. Sonapur	2	1	...	2	9	...	1	15
3. Amchong	...	...	5	...	7	...	1	13
Total	5	1	12	5	16	...	21	60

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population or on Act and non-Act population taken together. In this, as in the other districts of the Assam Valley, action was taken against unhealthy gardens in nearly every case in accordance with the recom-

mendations of District Officers and the Commissioner of the Division. The following action was taken in Kámrúp :

(1) *Chunsali.*—This garden has been on the unhealthy list continuously from 1888. A committee was held on the 1st August 1893, but did not record any distinct finding. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts has been requested to have the garden inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act.

(2) *Sonapur.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. It was decided that the holding of a committee on it should be dependent on the results of the mortality returns for the first half-year of 1894.

(3) *Amchong.*—It was not considered necessary to take coercive action against this garden, other than the usual inspection by the Civil Surgeon.

55. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Darrang district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred ;

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Panipota ...	1,227	1,265	24	70	94	19·5	55·3	74·8
	2. Hanchara ...	316	344	16	21	37	50 6	61·0	111·6
	3. Namgaon ...	464	474	19	22	41	40·9	46·4	87·3
	4. Dolupadong ...	652	626	19	31	50	29·1	49·5	78·6
	5. Dhekiajuli ...	216	232	8	14	22	37·0	60·3	97·3
	6. Barpukhuri ...	364	283	8	15	23	21·9	53·0	74 9
	7. Majuligarh ...	410	379	18	15	33	43·9	39·5	83·4
	8. Diplonga ...	304	270	17	23	40	55·9	85·1	141·0
	9. Pabhoi ...	222	300	6	18	24	27·0	60·0	87·0
	10. Dhendai ...	536	523	14	29	43	26·1	55·4	81·5
	11. Belsiri ...	148	142	9	27	36	60·8	190·1	250·9
Mangaldai ...	12. Kunderbil ...	448	449	9	31	40	20·0	69·0	89·0
	13. Kherkheria ...	448	458	15	33	48	33·4	72·0	105·4
	14. Ghograpara ...	342	337	10	22	32	29·2	65·2	94·4
	Total ...	6,097	6,082	192	371	563	31·4	60·9	92·3

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Dropsy.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Panipota ...	...	8	12	7	58	3	2	4	94
	2. Hanchara ...	5	2	12	...	9	3	...	6	37
	3. Namgaon ...	5	2	7	2	17	7	...	1	41
	4. Dolupadong ...	...	11	16	1	17	2	...	3	50
	5. Dhekiajuli ...	2	5	2	2	1	2	5	3	22
	6. Barpukhuri ...	2	1	2	6	5	...	4	3	23
	7. Majuligarh ...	1	1	1	...	28	2	...	...	33
	8. Diplonga ...	6	...	1	2	21	4	1	5	40
	9. Pabhoi ...	4	2	6	1	1	8	...	2	24
	10. Dhendai ...	...	1	10	8	3	9	3	9	43
	11. Belsiri ...	...	...	29	...	1	...	3	3	36
Mangaldai	12. Kunderbil ...	...	7	13	4	1	6	3	6	40
	13. Kherkheria ...	1	6	29	1	1	6	4	...	48
	14. Ghograpara ...	1	1	17	1	2	7	1	2	32
	Total ...	27	47	157	35	165	59	26	47	563

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
Sadr ... Mangaldai ...	15. Tarajuli ...	261	302	6	24	30	22·9	79·4	102·3
	16. Pratabgarh ...	271	289	6	20	26	22·1	69·2	91·3
	17. Panbari ...	102	111	5	5	10	49·0	45·0	94·0
	Total ...	634	702	17	49	66	26·8	69·8	96·6

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Dropsy.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ... Mangaldai	15. Tarajuli ...	...	2	8	5	5	4	3	3	30
	16. Pratabgarh...	...	5	3	3	...	7	...	8	26
	17. Panbari ...	...	1	...	6	...	1	1	1	10
	Total ...	...	8	11	14	5	12	4	12	66

The following action was taken in respect of these gardens :

(1) *Panipota.*—A proposal made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to hold a committee for the purpose of excluding Ganjam coolies, has been approved by the Chief Commissioner, and will be carried into effect.

(2) *Hanchara.*—The death-rate among Act coolies during 1893 was over 11 per cent., and there seems to have been carelessness in recruiting. The Commissioner's proposal to hold a committee on this garden has, therefore, been approved.

(3) *Namgaon.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1891 and 1892. The Commissioner's proposal to hold a committee on it has been approved.

(4) *Dolupadong.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1890 and 1892, but not in 1891. A committee was held on the 19th February 1894. The proceedings of the committee being irregular, the Chief Commissioner asked the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to have the garden specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act ; and on the Civil Surgeon's report, the Officiating Chief Commissioner ordered that the garden should be closed to new importations of Ganjam and Madras coolies.

(5) *Dhekiajuli.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1891 and 1892. It was specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act on the 7th March 1893. The coolie lines have now been removed to a better site ; and it is, therefore, not necessary to take further action.

(6) *Barpukhuri.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1891 and 1892 on non-Act and on Act and non-Act population taken together, respectively. It was decided, on the whole, that the results for 1893 did not call for any special coercive action.

(7) *Majuligarh.*—The high mortality on this garden was due to the importation of physically unfit labourers from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts proposed that a committee should be held to prevent the importation of unsuitable coolies ; and this proposal was approved by the Chief Commissioner.

(8) *Diplonga.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1891 and 1892. The Chief Commissioner has decided that a committee should be held on it with a view to excluding coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Ganjam from the garden.

(9) *Pabhoi.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. The Chief Commissioner has directed that a committee should be held on it.

(10) *Dhendai.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1891 and 1892. The high mortality was due to importation of bad batches of coolies. The requisite measures are reported to have been taken to exclude unfit coolies. Further action was, therefore, considered unnecessary.

(11) *Belsiri.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. There is reported to have been much carelessness in recruiting, and the holding of a committee on the garden has been directed.

(12) *Kunderbil.*—It has been decided that a committee should be held for the purpose of considering whether coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to whom chiefly the high mortality is due, should not be excluded from employment on this garden.

(13) *Kherkheria.*—The Inspector traced the high mortality to importation of coolies from the North-Western Provinces. As there are now no more coolies of this class, it has been decided that the results of the first half-year of 1894 should be awaited before determining whether further action is necessary.

(14) *Ghograpara*—The garden is usually a healthy one ; and no special action was considered necessary.

(15) *Tarajuli.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1890, 1891, and 1892. It was unhealthy in 1893 only in respect of the non-Act population, and the death-rate among Act coolies during 1893 was only 3·8 per cent. It was decided that, on the whole, the results for 1893 did not call for any special action beyond the usual inspections.

(16) *Pratabgarh.*—No special action was considered necessary on this garden.

(17) *Panbari.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1890, 1891, and 1892. It is a small garden, and the Chief Commissioner decided, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, that no coercive action under the Act was required on the results of the mortality for 1893.

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

56. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Nowgong district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Borkondoli	313	119	5	6	11	37·5	50·4	87·9
2. Sokunbari	98	94	11	6	17	112·2	63·8	176·0
3. Killing	162	159	13	2	15	80·2	12·5	92·7
4. Sakmuti	157	246	7	17	24	44·5	69·1	113·6
5. Nonai	115	86	4	6	10	34·7	69·7	104·4
6. Old Salona	115	99	3	10	13	26·0	101·0	127·0
7. Rangamati	185	156	4	9	13	21·6	57·6	79·2
Total	965	959	47	56	103	48·7	58·3	107·0

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Borkondoli	3	...	1	1	1	1	4	11
2. Sokunbari	8	...	2	...	1	1	5	17
3. Killing	...	...	3	...	10	...	2	15
4. Sakmuti	3	...	3	5	2	...	11	24
5. Nonai	...	...	5	2	...	...	3	10
6. Old Salona	...	...	5	...	1	...	7	13
7. Rangamati	1	...	10	...	1	...	1	13
Total	15	...	29	8	16	2	33	103

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
8. Jiajuri	283	249	6	13	19	21·2	52·2	73·4

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
8. Jiajuri	6	...	2	3	1	...	7	10

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The following action has been taken in respect of the unhealthy gardens in this district:

(1) *Borkondoli.*—A special inspection by the Civil Surgeon was directed.

(2) *Sokunbari.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1892. A committee was held on the 9th August 1893. The committee made certain recommendations, but did not record any definite finding of unfitness. The Civil Surgeon has been requested to inspect this garden specially before the close of 1894.

(3) *Killing.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts has been requested to ask the Civil Surgeon to hold an inspection under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act.

(4) *Sakmuti.*—On the recommendation of the Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner has decided that a committee should be held to determine what classes of labourers should be excluded from this garden.

(5) *Nonai.*—Previous to 1892, this garden was not on the unhealthy list for many years. The Deputy Commissioner reports that a committee was held in 1893; and as there have since been signs of improvement, the Chief Commissioner decided that another committee was unnecessary, but that the garden should be specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon before the close of 1894.

(6) *Old Salona.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1892. A committee was held on the garden on the 12th August 1893, and came to a finding that the estate was not unfit for the residence of labourers. As the Civil Surgeon, however, in his inspection of the garden, expressed the opinion that it was not suitable for new coolies, the Chief Commissioner has decided that another committee should be held on it.

(7) *Rangamati.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1892. The Deputy Commissioner reports that a committee was held on it in 1893. The Civil Surgeon considers that the garden is not unfit for the residence of labourers, or of any particular class of labourers except those from Gya. The garden will be again specially inspected by him before the end of the year.

(8) *Jiajuri.*—It was decided that special action was not necessary on this garden, as the number of Act coolies on it is small.

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

57. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Sibságar district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Banfera ...	278	311	6	16	22	21·5	51·4	72·9
	2. Mohkhuti ...	143	144	5	7	12	34·9	48·6	83·5
	3. Maduri ...	148	163	3	10	13	20·2	61·3	81·5
Jorhát ...	4. Dehingapar ...	191	205	6	8	14	31·4	39·0	70·4
	5. Bandersalia ...	143	135	4	12	16	27·9	88·8	116·7
	6. Cinnamara ...	680	711	15	41	56	22·0	57·6	79·6
	7. Dhekiajuli ...	446	448	18	20	38	40·3	44·6	84·9
Golághát ...	8. Rangajan ...	141	124	3	11	14	21·2	88·7	109·9
	9. Deering ...	83	100	2	16	18	24·0	160·0	184·0
	10. Missamara ...	298	402	10	18	28	33·5	44·7	78·2
	11. Dhansiri ...	301	287	10	15	25	33·2	52·2	85·4
	12. Halmira ...	100	120	9	4	13	90·0	33·3	123·3
	Total	2,952	3,150	91	178	269	30·8	56·5	87·3

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	1. Banfera	1	...	7	1	3	...	10	22
	2. Mohkhuti	3	...	2	...	4	...	3	12
	3. Maduri	1	2	1	...	1	...	8	13
Jorhát	4. Dehingapar	6	...	2	2	...	...	4	14
	5. Bandersalia	...	4	12	...	...	...	...	16
	6. Cinnamara	3	5	16	6	12	...	14	56
	7. Dhekiajuli	1	1	14	...	3	...	19	38
Golághát	8. Rangajan	11	1	...	...	...	...	2	14
	9. Deering	6	...	1	2	1	...	8	18
	10. Missamara	1	1	8	1	1	...	16	28
	11. Dhansiri	...	4	8	2	...	...	11	25
	12. Halmira	3	1	3	...	...	...	6	13
	Total	36	19	74	14	25	...	101	269

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr	13. Suffry ..	496	536	13	26	39	26·2	48·5	74·7
	14. Athkhel ...	527	545	22	21	43	41·7	38·5	80·2
	Total ...	1,023	1,081	35	47	82	34·2	43·4	77·6

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	13. Suffry	...	3	16	4	1	...	15	39
	14. Athkhel ...	1	6	15	14	2	...	5	43
	Total	1	9	31	18	3	...	20	82

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Jorhát ...	15. Kheremia ...	144	161	1	12	13	6·9	74·5	81·4

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases	Other causes.	Total.
Jorhát ...	15. Kheremia ...	...	2	9	...	.....	...	2	13

The following action was taken in respect of the unhealthy gardens in this district :

(1) *Banfera.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1892. The holding of a committee has been ordered.

(2) *Mohkhuti.*—This garden was on the unhealthy list in 1892, but from the figures for the last three years, it does not appear to have been, on the whole, unhealthy. Further action was, therefore, considered unnecessary.

(3) *Maduri.*—This garden was also unhealthy in 1892. No special action is necessary, as the labourers' lines are to be removed to a new site.

(4) *Dehingapar.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1892 on total population. It was inspected by the Civil Surgeon in the usual course, but no further action was considered necessary.

(5) *Bandersalia.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to have this garden specially inspected, under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, by the Civil Surgeon.

(6) *Cinnamara.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1891, 1892, and 1893. A committee was held on the 23rd November 1893, but it did not consider itself justified in declaring the estate unfit for the residence of new coolies as such, and was unanimous in this finding The Chief Commissioner was not satisfied with this finding, and has directed that the garden shall be specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of Act 1 of 1882.

(7) *Dhekiajuli.*—This garden has been unhealthy in 1891, 1892, and 1893. A committee was held on this garden on the 14th April 1894, and came to a unanimous finding that the estate was unfit for the residence of any labourers who do not *bonâ fide* belong to one of the following classes :—Sonthal, Bhumij, Mura, Munda, Kol, Kamar, and Uraon from Chota Nagpur and its immediate neighbourhood. The committee were further of opinion that at future inspections the greatest care should be taken to see that no inferior classes of coolies are allowed to come on the garden under a wrong denomination of one of the castes mentioned. The effect of this finding is that Act labourers other than those of the classes specified are excluded from employment on this garden.

(8) *Rangajan.*—This garden has hitherto been healthy ; the large mortality of 1893 was mainly due to cholera. The outbreak, as far as can be gathered, was due to exceptional causes. No special action was considered necessary.

(9) *Deering.*—This garden has been unhealthy from 1889 to 1893. The holding of a committee on it has been ordered.

(10) *Missamara.*—No special action was considered necessary with regard to this garden.

(11) *Dhansiri.*—This garden was healthy in 1891 and 1892. The Act death-rate in 1893 was 8·5 per cent.; if allowance is made for deaths among coolies who deserted and came back in a moribund state, the percentage would be less than 7. The Civil Surgeon reports that most of the deaths were among deserters. The garden does not seem to be unfit for the residence of any class of coolies; and no special action was considered necessary.

(12) *Halmira.*—A committee was held on the garden on the 5th July 1893, but did not consider that the estate was unfit for the residence of labourers.

(13) *Suffry and* (14) *Athkhel.*—No special action was considered necessary in respect of these gardens.

(15) *Kheremia.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1892. The house accommodation for coolies and water-supply seem to be bad, and are likely to render the garden unfit for the residence of labourers generally. The holding of a committee has been ordered.

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

58. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Lakhimpur district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Ledo ...	982	905	84	59	143	85·5	65·1	150·6
	2. Tikhak ...	381	330	40	29	69	104·9	87·8	192·7
	3. Margherita head-quarter ...	321	306	18	12	30	56·0	39·2	95·2
	4. Makum tea estate ...	837	988	77	73	150	91·9	73·8	165·7
	5. Greenwood ...	302	350	10	59	69	33·1	168·5	201·6
	6. Chabua ...	642	704	12	37	49	18·6	52·5	71·1
	Total	3,465	3,583	241	269	510	69·5	75·0	144·5

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *ankylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1 Ledo	55	1	20	5	4	...	58	143
	2. Tikhak	31	4	6	1	1	...	26	69
	3. Margherita head-quarter ...	15	3	2	...	.....	...	10	30
	4. Makum tea estate ...	65	8	26	1	14	...	36	150
	5. Greenwood ...	...	4	42	7	13	...	3	69
	6. Chabua ...	4	3	12	4	11	...	15	49
	Total	170	23	108	18	43	...	148	510

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
North Lakhimpur.	7. Kadam	185	207	2	15	17	10·8	72·4	83·2

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
North Lakhimpur ...	7. Kadam ...	...	...	5	4	1	..	7	17

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	8. Tamulbari ...	193	200	4	10	14	20·7	50·0	70·7

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	8. Tamulbari ...	...	1	5	2	3	...	3	14

The following action has been taken in this district :

(1) *Ledo and* (2) *Tikhak.*—These estates (which are coal-mines) have been on the unhealthy list for several years. A committee was held on them on the 17th and 18th July 1893. The committee found that a portion of the Ledo estate on the south bank of the Ledo river was unfit for the residence of labourers generally, and that both Ledo and Tikhak estates were unfit for the residence of labourers from (1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh and (2) Behar. This finding has been given effect to.

(3) *Margherita.*—This garden has been unhealthy in 1891, 1892, and 1893. A committee was not held on the garden, as was directed in the Provincial Immigration Report for 1892, but one will be held shortly.

(4) *Makum.*—This garden was unhealthy also in 1892. The holding of a committee has been ordered.

(5) *Greenwood.*—The Civil Surgeon's report shows that the water-supply is unsatisfactory on this garden. A committee will be held.

(6) *Chabua*, (7) *Kadam, and* (8) *Tamulbari.*—No special action was considered necessary in respect of these three gardens.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns and liable to inspection.

59. The number of gardens shown on the inspection register decreased from 867 in 1892 to 805 in 1893, and the number of gardens submitting returns from 763 to 727. This decrease does not arise from a falling off in tea-planting operations, but from the amalgamation of gardens, smaller gardens especially being amalgamated with larger ones. The number of gardens which were liable to inspection and were required to submit returns (*i.e.*, those on which *any* Act coolies or more than 50 non-Act coolies, dependents, and children reside) was 724 during the year. The returns were, on the whole, submitted with fair punctuality. In a few cases there was unreasonable delay. In such cases there should be no hesitation in prosecuting the defaulting manager. Employers derive so much benefit from the labour laws that the punctual submission of returns and the supply of complete information on any point on which it is asked is the least that can be expected in return for the advantages given to them.

Classification of gardens according to the coolies employed and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

60. The following statement shows the number of gardens classified, district by district, according to the classes of labourers employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number which were visited during the year:

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	146	35	..	6	187	73	44	2	..	119	11	5	1	15	32	71	6	5	6	88
„ sending returns 50 and 51	146	26	..	..	172	73	44	1	..	118	11	5	1	..	17	71	6	5	..	82
„ inspected once ..	122	24	..	..	146	63	42	1	..	106	5	4	..	..	9	50	6	..	..	56
„ „ twice ..	16	..	..	..	16	10	1	..	..	11	5	1	..	..	6	23	..	..	..	23
„ „ thrice ..	10	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
„ „ four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1893 ..	148	24	..	..	172	73	43	1	..	117	11	5	..	..	16	73	6	..	..	79
„ „ „ *1892* ..	*141*	*28*	..	..	*169*	*72*	*46*	..	..	*118*	*10*	*6*	*2*	..	*18*	*71*	*4*	..	..	*75*

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	36	7	3	9	55	148	8	6	19	181	133	3	..	7	143	618	108	17	62	805
,, sending returns 50 and 51	36	7	3	..	46	148	8	..	..	156	133	3	..	..	136	618	99	10	..	727
,, inspected once ..	22	7	1	..	30	117	8	..	..	125	114	3	..	..	117	493	94	2	..	589
,, ,, twice ..	9	..	..	..	9	27	..	..	..	27	16	..	..	..	16	106	2	..	..	108
,, ,, thrice ..	4	..	..	..	4	3	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	3	21	..	..	..	21
,, ,, four times ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1893 ..	35	7	1	..	43	147	8	..	..	155	133	3	..	..	136	620	96	2	..	718
,, ,, *1892* ..	*26*	*9*	*2*	..	*47*	*170*	*8*	..	..	*178*	*125*	*2*	*1*	..	*128*	*625*	..	*25*	*103*	*733*

The above figures show that a satisfactory amount of inspection work was done during the year. It appears from the statements that 724 gardens were liable to inspection, while 718 were actually inspected ; but from the account given in the body of the district reports, it would seem that in every district except Sylhet and Nowgong every garden liable to inspection was inspected during the year. In Sylhet, one garden, employing only non-Act coolies, remained uninspected at the end of the year, and was inspected after its close ; and in Nowgong one garden, employing Act coolies, was not inspected. The number of second and third inspections was also larger than in the last two years. At the same time, the Officiating Chief Commissioner is not fully satisfied with the number of second and further inspections. Now that the standing orders have been revised so as to dispense with officers having to go through the whole procedure at second and subsequent inspections, and they are only required, except in the case of unhealthy gardens, to direct their attention to particular points at such inspections, and to submit a brief memorandum of their visits, instead of filling up the whole form of the inspection report, there is no reason why a far larger number of gardens should not be inspected twice or three times or more often during the year.

The following figures show the number of gardens inspected respectively by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Civil Surgeons, and other inspecting officers :

District.	Deputy Commissioners.		Assistant Commissioners.		Civil Surgeons.		Other inspecting agency.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Cachar ...	36	55	21	64	66	25	59	28
Sylhet ...	16	7	90	98	14	16	9	6
Kámrúp ...	13	12	...	...	11	12	...	...
Darrang ...	27	29	10	24	38	32	24	7
Nowgong ...	24	12	...	...	14	15	9	33
Sibságar ...	47	19	92	100	22	41	28	28
Lakhimpur ...	47	48	52	17	28	47	5	46

On the whole, the work of inspection was well done during the year, and it was fairly distributed among officers of each class.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

61. The relations between employers and labourers continued to be generally satisfactory during the year; and the treatment of the labour force by employers is reported to have been, on the whole, just and considerate. There were, as might be expected among a population of nearly half a million, the usual number of disagreements and petty disputes between the coolies on the one hand, and the management or subordinate garden staff on the other, and in a few cases assaults by employers on coolies or rioting and turbulence by coolies; but there are only two cases which the Chief Commissioner thinks it necessary to notice. In the first of these, J. F. Barnes, the Assistant Manager of the Jokai garden in Dibrugarh, caused two women to be caned for creating a disturbance in the lines. He was convicted under section 323 of the Penal Code, and fined Rs. 50 by the Magistrate. Mr. Ward considered the sentence to be altogether inadequate. Although in this particular case there were no circumstances of special aggravation or indecency, the Officiating Chief Commissioner considers, and he wishes all Magistrates distinctly to recognise the principle, that any employer who flogs a coolie woman, or causes her to be flogged, should be sentenced to a substantial term of imprisonment.

The second case is reported from the Sibságar district. C. O. Walling, Manager of Banmali, who had made himself notorious last year, and was mentioned in the Annual Report, arrested an Act coolie woman (who had apparently deserted) and a cowherd without warrant, and, on bringing them back to the garden, made them beat each other with a cane. This occurred in June 1892, but it only came to light at the inspection held in December, and the case was disposed of during 1893. Walling was prosecuted under section 362 of the Penal Code and section 172 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. The assault was compounded by the parties; but Walling, having grossly abused his power of arrest without warrant, was fined Rs. 200, the maximum penalty prescribed for the omission to take the labourer to the police station.

Relations between the garden population and the villagers.

62. The relations between the tea-garden population and the villagers continued to be generally satisfactory, and there is nothing particular to notice under this head.

General condition of the labourers.

63. Nothing special is reported under this head; but there is no reason to suppose that the general condition of labourers on tea estates was in any way less satisfactory than in previous years. From one point of view their condition has been steadily improving during the last few years. Gardens have generally now a much larger supply of labour in proportion to the work required from the labour force than they had ten or twelve years ago. The advantages both to the employer and to the labour force arising from an abundant supply of labour are so obvious and were so fully dealt with in the Special Report submitted in 1890, that they need no repetition. The following figures show that the proportion of adult labourers to the area under tea-cultivation has increased from 0·80 per acre in 1880 to 1·19 per acre in 1893:

Year.	Total area under tea-cultivation. Acres.	Total adult labour force (annual mean) (Act and non-Act).
1880	153,657	122,955
1881	158,427	124,449
1882	178,851	131,405
1883	189,453	153,739
1884	189,852	177,622
1885	197,510	188,262
1886	203,993	192,076
1887	211,079	203,023
1888	216,676	219,861
1889	227,249	241,297
1890	231,038	250,113
1891	241,823	265,315
1892	247,192	283,819
1893	254,126	302,558

64. The following figures show the amount of land held direct from Government by time-expired immigrant coolies in the various districts in the Province :

Settlement of time-expired labourers on the land.

District.	1892.	1893.
	Acres.	Acres.
Cachar	7,538	9,135
Sylhet	996	1,604
Kámrúp	92	92
Darrang	10,631	8,648
Nowgong	2,362	2,241
Sibságar	12,306	11,908
Lakhimpur	6,585	8,288
Total	40,510	41,916

This statement, it will be observed, does not show the whole amount of land held by time-expired immigrants, as to which no figures are available, but only the amount held direct under Government. Lands held by immigrants as sub-tenants of other raiyats or under landholders or tea-planters are excluded. The increase during 1893 of land held direct under Government has been slight, and in some districts of the Assam Valley there was a decrease attributed to relinquishments, probably of surplus lands, consequent on the recent re-assessment of revenue. The area held direct under Government has, however, largely increased in recent years ; *e.g.*, in 1883 it was only 4,975 acres ; in 1888 it was 25,315 acres.

65. The following statement shows details of time-expired garden coolies treated in Government dispensaries in the several districts of the Province :

Time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.

District.	Number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.	Nature of diseases.							Number of days treated.	Average period of detention, in days.
		Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Other causes.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cachar ...	227	...	...	42	28	58	99	227	4,703	20·7
Sylhet ...	298	13	61	35	57	19	113	298	3,307	11·1
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	70	...	8	10	3	12	37	70	1,611	23·0
Nowgong ...	51	2	3	4	4	19	19	51	2,109	41·3
Sibságar ...	119	...	14	22	1	27	55	119	2,768	23·2
Lakhimpur ...	27	...	2	1	1	6	17	27	676	25·0
Total of 1893 ...	792	15	88	114	94	141	340	792	15,174	19·1
„ „ *1892* ...	*725*	*33*	*112*	*107*	*121*	*92*	*260*	*725*	*12,487*	*17·2*

66. The statement below shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1893-94:

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.	Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Medical	.....	.....	.....	Salaries of depôt establishments (including native doctors, hospital assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menials)	8,742 11 2	1,083 12 8	9,826 7 10
Contractors' license fees under section 13	5,117 4 0	450 0 0	5,567 4 0	Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs)	8,542 9 10	.....	8,542 9 10
Recruiters' fees under section 24	.....	336 8 0	336 8 0	Contingent charges	2,035 5 1	154 3 3	2,189 8 4
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68	.....	11,687 8 0	11,687 8 0	Grants to dispensaries	5,590 0 0	.....	5,590 0 0
Fees for licenses of inland steamers and native boats under section 90	.....	1,588 0 0	1,588 0 0	Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers (including exchange compensation allowance) ..	5,907 3 3	15,518 9 2	21,425 12 5
Rates under section 109 ..	58,560 6 6	.....	58,560 6 6	Clerks and servants	8,436 6 3	4,916 3 6	13,352 9 9
Fees for use of debarkation depôts ..	2,906 7 6	.....	2,906 7 6	Travelling allowance ..	7,731 5 10	1,067 4 2	8,798 10 0
Diet, &c., charges recovered ..	1,631 15 6	....	1,631 15 6	Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit establishments, refunds, pensions)	3,578 11 0	3,499 2 7	7,077 13 7
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospital	126 15 6	.....	126 15 6	Deficit in the Bengal portion of the fund	12,021 3 4	—12,021 3 4	.....
Cash recoveries	.....	60 0 0	60 0 0				
Fines and Miscellaneous ..	91 5 1	96 0 0	187 5 1				
Total	75,434 6 7	14,218 0 0	89,652 6 7	Total	62,585 7 9	14,218 0 0	76,803 7 9

The Fund is at present in a thoroughly solvent condition.

By order of the Offg. Chief Commissioner of Assam,

P. G. MELITUS,

Offg. Secretary to the Offg. Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The 19th September 1894.

Return showing the Statistics of the Labour Force of the

Classes of labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during the year 1893.												
		Imported.			Otherwise than by importation.									
		By contractors.	By garden sardárs.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contracts.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	Total of columns 2 and 14
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	7,297	1,193	1,341	...	307	634	128	53	...	...	...	...	3,656	10,953
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	56,994	...	...	3,295	...	...	573	...	2,112	3,912	...	1,013	10,905	67,899
Children ...	39,673	...	...	2,080	...	...	140	...	...	1,045	2,672	...	5,937	45,610
Total	103,964	1,193	1,341	5,375	307	634	841	53	2,112	4,957	2,672	1,013	20,498	124,462
Sylhet—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	6,803	893	561	...	3,622	375	56	46	...	...	...	...	5,553	12,356
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	51,338	...	...	4,441	...	...	1,351	...	2,427	3,067	...	1,010	12,296	63,634
Children ...	38,961	...	...	3,093	...	...	520	...	...	768	2,458	...	6,839	45,800
Total	97,102	893	561	7,534	3,622	375	1,927	46	2,427	3,835	2,458	1,010	24,688	121,790
Surma Valley—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	14,100	2,086	1,902	...	3,929	1,009	184	99	...	...	...	...	9,209	23,309
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	108,332	...	...	7,736	...	...	1,924	...	4,539	6,979	...	2,023	23,201	131,533
Children ...	78,634	...	...	5,173	...	...	660	...	...	1,813	5,130	...	12,776	91,410
Total	201,066	2,086	1,902	12,909	3,929	1,009	2,768	99	4,539	8,792	5,130	2,023	45,186	246,252
Kámrúp—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	934	67	137	...	...	4	1	15	...	...	...	...	224	1,158
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	1,331	...	...	34	...	...	57	...	118	311	...	48	568	1,899
Children ...	1,149	...	...	93	...	...	28	...	...	104	94	...	319	1,468
Total	3,414	67	137	127	...	4	86	15	118	415	94	48	1,111	4,525
Darrang—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	24,333	2,284	1,808	...	3,776	308	200	92	...	...	...	...	8,468	32,801
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	11,641	...	...	413	...	...	155	...	4,489	3,073	...	354	8,484	20,125
Children ...	15,598	...	...	1,428	...	...	62	...	...	344	1,153	...	2,987	18,585
Total	51,572	2,284	1,808	1,841	3,776	308	417	92	4,489	3,417	1,153	354	19,939	71,511

Tea gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1893.

Deductions made during the year 1893.																	Number remaining at the end of the year 1893.	Strength on 1st July 1893.	Annual strength.		
Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	Deaths.		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Cancelment under section 111A, 111B, 129, 140, 140A, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 129.	Suspended under section 130.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.			First half-year.	Second half-year.	Death-rate per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.																
16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
128	...	175	483	601	553	...	...	...	41	40	...	...	1,621	1	5	3,648	7,305	8,619	7,958	7,962	82·6
573	3,339	598	1,117	1,329	1,243	...	426	692	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,317	58,582	59,232	58,113	58,907	29·1
140	1,229	351	632	848	465	1,013	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,678	40,932	41,305	40,489	41,118	24·0
841	4,568	1,124	2,232	2,778	2,261	1,013	426	692	41	40	...	...	1,621	1	5	17,643	106,819	109,156	106,560	107,987	31·1
59	...	113	193	414	494	...	...	...	9	50	...	...	2,626	1	...	3,959	8,397	8,119	7,461	8,258	38·4
286	4,008	610	940	1,872	2,028	...	2,591	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,487	51,147	53,582	52,460	52,364	29·5
96	1,533	366	421	769	979	1,010	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,174	40,626	41,119	40,040	40,872	19·4
441	5,541	1,089	1,554	3,055	3,501	1,010	2,591	152	9	50	...	...	2,626	1	...	21,620	100,170	102,821	99,961	101,495	26·1
187	...	288	676	1,015	1,047	...	...	...	50	90	...	...	4,247	2	5	7,607	15,792	16,738	15,419	16,220	60·2
859	7,347	1,208	2,057	3,201	3,271	...	3,017	844	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,804	109,729	112,814	110,573	111,271	29·3
236	2,762	717	1,053	1,617	1,444	2,023	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	9,852	81,558	82,424	80,529	81,991	21·7
1,282	10,109	2,213	3,786	5,833	5,762	2,023	3,017	844	50	90	...	...	4,247	2	5	39,263	206,989	211,976	206,521	209,482	28·7
3	...	32	50	93	34	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	154	2	1	373	785	875	904	859	95·5
1	365	24	26	79	97	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	594	1,305	1,474	1,402	1,389	35·8
1	206	21	29	36	25	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	366	1,102	1,132	1,140	1,117	44·3
5	571	77	105	208	156	48	...	2	...	4	...	...	154	2	1	1,333	3,192	3,481	3,447	3,336	53·7
200	...	516	873	505	603	...	...	...	28	222	...	...	6,546	1	47	9,541	23,260	24,705	24,519	23,982	57·4
155	4,906	140	195	309	227	...	2,464	234	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,630	11,495	12,828	12,235	12,161	27·4
62	798	166	292	90	56	354	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,818	16,767	16,274	15,936	16,521	28·0
417	5,704	822	1,360	904	886	354	2,464	234	28	222	...	...	6,546	1	47	19,989	51,522	53,807	52,689	52,664	41·4

Return showing the Statistics of the Labour Force of the

Classes of labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during the year 1893.												Total of columns 2 and 14.
		Imported.			Otherwise than by importation.									
		By contractors.	By garden sardars.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contracts.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfers to adults from minors.	Total added.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Nowgong—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	4,118	764	317	...	242	39	179	50	...	...	...	...	1,591	5,709
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	6,217	...	...	697	...	...	94	...	785	957	...	249	2,782	8,999
Children ...	6,007	...	...	360	...	...	107	...	...	116	374	...	957	6,964
Total	16,342	764	317	1,057	242	39	380	50	785	1,073	374	249	5,330	21,672
Sibságar—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	38,482	2,571	4,406	...	6,926	409	848	107	...	...	...	...	15,267	53,749
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	23,062	...	...	929	...	...	457	...	6,238	4,229	...	842	12,695	35,757
Children ...	40,222	...	...	3,435	...	...	157	...	...	449	2,855	...	6,896	47,118
Total	101,766	2,571	4,406	4,364	6,926	409	1,462	107	6,238	4,678	2,855	842	34,858	136,624
Lakhimpur—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	35,562	6,532	3,140	...	3,737	934	361	147	...	...	...	...	14,851	50,413
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	21,914	...	...	1,320	...	...	236	...	6,234	1,750	...	757	10,297	32,211
Children ...	29,609	...	...	3,043	...	...	92	...	...	432	2,047	...	5,614	35,223
Total	87,085	6,532	3,140	4,363	3,737	934	689	147	6,234	2,182	2,047	757	30,762	117,847
Brahmaputra Valley—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	103,429	12,218	9,808	...	14,681	1,694	1,589	411	...	...	...	...	40,401	143,830
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	64,165	...	...	3,393	...	...	993	...	17,864	10,320	...	2,250	34,826	98,991
Children ...	92,585	...	...	8,359	...	...	446	...	...	1,445	6,523	...	16,773	109,358
Total	260,179	12,218	9,808	11,752	14,681	1,694	3,034	411	17,864	11,765	6,523	2,250	92,000	352,179
Total for the Province—														
Act-I labourers—Adults ...	117,529	14,304	11,710	...	18,610	2,703	1,773	510	...	...	...	...	49,610	167,139
Non-Act labourers—Adults ...	172,497	...	...	11,129	...	...	2,923	...	22,403	17,299	...	4,273	58,027	230,524
Children ...	171,219	...	...	13,532	...	...	1,106	...	...	3,258	11,653	...	29,549	200,768
Grand total ...	461,245*	14,304	11,710	24,661	18,610	2,703	5,802	510	22,403	20,557	11,653	4,273	137,186	598,431

* The difference of 462 labourers between this entry and that shown in column 31 of the statement at the end of the Report for 1892 against the heading "Grand total" difference is due to erroneous classification and correction of figures by

Tea-gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1893—continued.

Deductions made during the year 1893.																		Annual strength.		
Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	Deaths.		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Assignment under section 111A, 111B, 139, 140, 140A, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 120.	Suspended under section 120.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.	Number remaining at the end of the year 1893.	Strength of 1st July 1893.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Death-rate per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.																
16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
175	...	126	157	148	121	...	...	...	1	137	...	...	869	...	15	1,749	3,960	4,362	4,240	4,161	67·4
85	1,761	116	109	116	100	...	209	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,525	6,474	7,349	6,783	6,911	32·9
104	375	94	125	24	52	249	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,023	5,941	6,114	6,060	6,027	36·2
364	2,136	336	391	288	273	249	209	29	1	137	...	...	869	...	15	5,297	16,375	17,825	17,083	17,100	42·5
848	...	654	1,012	531	621	...	...	...	1	201	...	...	10,743	4	570	15,185	38,564	41,003	39,742	39,783	41·8
438	3,789	289	374	710	286	...	2,233	125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,244	27,513	27,787	25,424	27,650	24·8
154	1,762	433	712	175	120	842	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,198	42,920	42,583	41,402	42,751	27·0
1,440	5,551	1,376	2,098	1,416	1,027	842	2,233	125	1	201	...	...	10,743	4	570	27,627	108,997	111,373	106,569	110,185	31·9
337	...	943	997	743	712	...	...	...	7	651	...	...	8,472	4	26	12,892	37,521	37,792	36,677	37,656	52·1
128	4,365	331	317	263	303	...	3,058	591	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,359	22,852	22,798	22,356	22,825	28·6
84	2,419	283	547	164	124	757	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,378	30,845	30,665	30,137	30,755	27·1
549	6,787	1,557	1,861	1,170	1,139	757	3,058	591	7	651	...	...	8,472	4	26	26,629	91,218	91,255	89,170	91,236	37·8
1,563	...	2,271	3,089	2,020	2,091	...	...	...	37	1,215	...	...	26,784	11	659	39,740	104,090	108,737	106,083	106,413	40·4
807	15,189	900	1,021	1,477	1,013	...	7,964	981	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29,352	69,639	72,236	68,200	70,937	27·4
405	5,560	997	1,705	489	377	2,250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,783	97,575	96,768	94,676	97,171	28·0
2,775	20,749	4,168	5,815	3,986	3,481	2,250	7,964	981	37	1,215	...	...	26,784	11	659	80,875	271,304	277,741	268,960	274,521	36·5
1,750	...	2,559	3,765	3,035	3,138	...	...	...	87	1,305	...	...	31,031	13	664	47,347	119,792	125,475	121,502	122,633	51·7
1,666	22,536	2,108	3,078	4,678	4,284	...	10,981	1,825	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,156	179,368	185,050	178,773	182,209	28·5
641	8,322	1,714	2,758	2,106	1,821	4,273	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,635	179,133	179,192	175,205	179,16-	25·0
4,057	30,858	6,381	9,601	9,819	9,243	4,273	10,981	1,825	87	1,305	...	...	31,031	13	664	120,138	478,293	489,717	475,481	484,003	33·2

is due to the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Nowgong taking revised figures in their returns for 1893. The former gives no explanation, but the latter explains that the managers of certain tea-gardens in his district.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE NO. 130 (REVENUE)—300—25-9-94.

REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1894.

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Reg. No. 183, Ch. Coast, Assam.—May 96—4,800.

Eman. S. I. O., Calcutta.

REPORT ON LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1894.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

This Report deals only with the immigration of labourers imported into this province for labour on tea-estates and a few coal mines, saw mills, &c. It does not take account of the immigrants who enter the province each year for employment on public works, or of the large numbers of labourers imported during the last two or three years for the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. No statistics are obtained by this Administration regarding immigrants of the latter classes; they usually come to the province for the working season only, and then return to their homes.

Provincial figures of immigration.

The following table shows the immigration of all classes of coolies imported into the province for labour on tea and other estates during the past two years:

		1893.	1894.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ...	Sardári adults	11,710	9,743	—1,967	—16·8
	Contractors' adults	14,304	13,980	— 324	— 2·2
Non-Act adults ...		11,129	11,983	+ 854	+ 7·6
Total		37,143	35,706	—1,437	— 3·8
Children		13,532	10,824	—2,708	—20·0
Grand total		50,675	46,530	—4,145	— 8·1

In this table and in the subsequent paragraphs of this Report, with the exception of paragraph 7, the term "Act adults" includes those labourers who came up to Dhubri as "free immigrants" and executed Act contracts there. The statement to be found in paragraph 7 of this Report will show separately (so far as the information can be given) the number of such immigrants as distinguished from Act immigrants who executed contracts in the recruiting provinces, and left their native provinces, already on contracts executed under the Act. For all practical purposes, the coolies who executed their contracts at Dhubri are, in fact, Act immigrants, inasmuch as they enter into engagements under the Act at a point at which they enter Assam, and complete their journey from that station to the actual labour districts in which they are to be employed as Act labourers. The distance from the recruiting districts to Dhubri is comparatively small, as compared with the distance from Dhubri to the actual tea-gardens for which the immigrants are destined.

The above table shows that a smaller number of immigrants came to the province during 1894 than in the previous year; but the decrease is not so large as to call for any special explanation. As a matter of fact, the number of immigrants in 1894 was larger than in any year on record previous to 1889. The figures of immigration for the five years 1890 to 1894 are as follows:

		1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Act ..	Sardári ...	7,291	9,241	13,513	11,710	9,743
	Contractors'	10,082	16,071	14,942	14,304	13,980
Non-Act adults ...		8,832	12,627	13,347	11,129	11,983
Total of Act and Non-Act adults		26,205	37,939	41,802	37,143	35,706
Children ...		9,875	11,969	14,248	13,532	10,824
Grand total (including children) ...		36,080	49,908	56,050	50,675	46,530

These figures show that sardári recruitment has not been able to hold its own against contractors' recruitment during 1894, as well as in the preceding two years ; as compared with 1890 and 1891, however, the results of sardári recruitment for 1894 seem fairly satisfactory. The proportion of children imported during 1894 is considerably smaller than in the past two years. This is an unsatisfactory feature in the immigration of the year, as the proportion of children to total immigrants is a measure of the extent to which family immigration is carried on. It would seem that during 1894 a larger proportion of the immigration than in previous years was that of solitary individuals, men and women, and not of families.

District and Valley statistics of immigration.

2. The following table gives the statistics of immigration for each division and tea-district of the province separately for the last two years :

District.	Act-adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total including children.		
	1893.	1894.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1893.	1894.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1893.	1894.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1893.	1894.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1893.	1894.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	2,534	1,645	−35·08	3,295	3,267	− ·84	5,829	4,912	−15·73	2,080	616	−70·38	7,909	5,528	−20·10
Sylhet	1,454	2,017	+38·72	4,441	5,589	+25·85	5,895	7,606	+29·02	3,093	3,075	− ·58	8,988	10,681	+18·82
Total Surma Valley..	3,988	3,662	− 8·17	7,736	8,856	+14·47	11,724	12,518	+ 6·77	5,173	3,691	−28·64	16,897	16,209	− 4·07
Kámrúp	204	149	−26·96	34	47	+38·23	238	196	−17·64	93	39	−58·06	331	235	−29·00
Darrang ..	4,092	4,440	+ 8·50	413	289	−30·02	4,505	4,729	+ 4·95	1,428	932	−34·73	5,933	5,661	− 4·58
Nowgong ..	1,081	1,395	+29·04	697	174	−75·03	1,778	1,569	−11·75	360	384	+ 6·66	2,138	1,953	− 8·65
Sibságar	6,977	7,325	+ 4·98	929	907	− 2·36	7,906	8,232	+ 4·12	3,435	3,145	− 8·44	11,341	11,377	+ 0·31
Lakhimpur ..	9,672	6,752	−30·19	1,320	1,710	+29·54	10,992	8,462	−23·01	3,043	2,633	−13·47	14,035	11,095	−20·94
Total Assam Valley..	22,026	20,061	− 8·92	3,393	3,127	− 7·84	25,419	23,188	− 8·77	8,359	7,133	−14·66	33,778	30,321	−10·23
Grand total ..	26,014	23,723	− 8·80	11,129	11,983	+ 7·67	37,143	35,706	− 3·86	13,532	10,824	−20·01	50,675	46,530	−8·17

The number of immigrants to the Sylhet district was considerably larger than in the previous year. In Sibságar, also, there was a slight increase. The number of immigrants to the other districts was less. Excluding Kámrúp (which is an unimportant district from the point of view of this Report, as the number of immigrants employed in tea-estates in it is extremely small), the largest decreases occurred in the Cachar and Lakhimpur districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar writes that the falling off which took place in emigration generally, was largely due to available emigrants of the labouring classes being drawn off by contractors for the Assam-Bengal Railway, the sardárs and professional contractors for tea-gardens being beaten off in the competition. This explanation, however, seems to be insufficient, as in the neighbouring district of Sylhet, where the conditions are similar to those prevailing in Cachar, there was a large increase in the importations. The large immigration into Sylhet is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner of that district partly to extensions of tea cultivation in the southern part of the district, and partly to the fact that managers more fully appreciate the importance of having an abundant labour force. It is noticed that the extent to which immigration under the Act is resorted to in Sylhet has increased during the last two years. In 1887 to 1892 the total number of Act immigrants imported to this district each year was 927, 984, 1,193, 702, 486, 1,020 respectively ; this rose in 1893 to 1,454, and in 1894 to 2,017. This increase is probably partly due to the cause suggested by the Deputy Commissioner, *viz.*, to the great demand for labour in the Surma Valley districts, owing to the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway, and to the consequent necessity of placing a larger number of imported labourers under Act contracts from the beginning. But the result noticed may also, to some extent, be due to the change made in the labour law by the Act of 1893, under which labourers are incompetent to enter into direct contracts on the garden under section 111 of Act I of 1882 for a longer period than one year. An initial contract for one year only being admittedly insufficient to recoup employers the expenses and risks of bringing the immigrants up to the province, it is possible that employers have preferred, in some cases, to register their labourers in the recruiting districts, and bring them up under Act contracts, rather than to bring them up as non-Act immigrants, and then take contracts from them under the

procedure prescribed in section 112 of the Act. The Deputy Commissioner gives no special reason to account for the falling off in immigration to the Lakhimpur district, as compared with the immigration in the preceding three years, except the difficulty of inducing immigrants to go to that remote district—a cause which has, of course, been in constant operation all-along. The Chief Commissioner observes that, while the number of Act adults imported to Lakhimpur decreased by 30 per cent., as compared with the previous year, the number of non-Act adults rose from 1,320 in 1893 to 1,710 in 1894—a far larger number than that returned from any other district in the Assam Valley. It is improbable, however, that all these non-Act adults were taken up to the district without any kind of contract. From reports which reached the Chief Commissioner during the year, it appears that certain concerns in Lakhimpur have taken to importing coolies on contracts enforceable under section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, and not on contracts enforceable under the special labour law. The fluctuations in the immigration to districts other than those above named are unimportant, and call for no special comment.

3. The following tabular statement distributes the adult immigrants according to their sex between the different localities of recruitment, and shows the proportions in which the Act immigrants from each locality were recruited by garden-sardárs and by contractors respectively :

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal.									
Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas.	Men ...	3,548	3,471	4,295	4,648	1,380	1,711	9,223	9,830
	Women.	3,404	3,009	3,802	3,542	1,408	1,452	8,614	8,003
	Total ...	6,952	6,480	8,097	8,190	2,788	3,163	17,837	17,833
Behar	Men ...	762	455	421	506	698	585	1,881	1,546
	Women.	529	350	317	333	401	429	1,247	1,112
	Total ...	1,291	805	738	839	1,099	1,014	3,128	2,658
Bengal Proper and Orissa.	Men ...	865	566	1,670	1,142	882	860	3,417	2,568
	Women.	928	563	1,974	1,228	1,027	645	3,929	2,436
	Total ...	1,793	1,129	3,644	2,370	1,909	1,505	7,346	5,004
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	766	326	545	603	2,273	2,968	3,584	3,897
	Women.	420	212	409	422	1,775	2,423	2,604	3,057
	Total ...	1,186	538	954	1,025	4,048	5,391	6,188	6,954
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	124	242	351	611	56	396	531	1,249
	Women	37	170	289	413	39	182	365	765
	Total ...	161	412	640	1,024	95	578	896	2,014
Madras	Men ...	185	181	115	358	127	86	427	625
	Women.	132	151	112	168	96	32	340	351
	Total ...	317	332	227	526	223	118	767	976
Bombay	Men ...	...	1	2	3	...	4	2	8
	Women.	...	...	2	2	1	3	3	5
	Total ...	...	1	4	5	1	7	5	13
Nepal	Men ...	8	33	...	1	...	19	8	53
	Women.	2	13	...	...	...	7	2	20
	Total ...	10	46	...	1	...	26	10	73
Assam	Men ...	...	...	...	...	920	181	920	181
	Women.	...	...	...	...	46	...	46	...
	Total ...	...	...	...	...	966	181	966	181
Total	Men ...	6,258	5,275	7,399	7,872	6,336	6,810	19,993	19,957
	Women.	5,452	4,468	6,905	6,108	4,793	5,173	17,150	15,749
	Grand total ...	11,710	9,743	14,304	13,980	11,129	11,983	37,143	35,706

This statement shows, as already explained in paragraph 1, that sardári recruitment fell off, while contractors' recruitment gained ground, in most of the principal

recruiting areas; but, in considering the figures, it has to be remembered that probably the great majority of the immigrants shown as non-Act adults—certainly so far as the Surma Valley districts are concerned—are recruited by garden sardárs.

The total number of labourers imported from the Lower Provinces of Bengal fell off from 28,311 in 1893 to 25,495 in 1894. The importations from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas have remained about the same for the last three years; and these localities still continue to be the chief recruiting ground for the labour required for the Assam tea-estates. The number of immigrants from Bengal Proper and Orissa (5,004) was considerably less than the number imported in 1893 (7,316), but there was exceptional immigration from these areas in 1893, and the importations of 1894 are well above the average for the years 1889 to 1892. Statistics showing the immigration from Behar and from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have only been separately registered since 1891. There were fewer immigrants from Behar in 1894 than in any of the preceding three years; and the number of immigrants imported from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, though larger than the number imported in 1893, was considerably below the importations of 1892 and 1891. As was explained in last year's Report, the decrease in the immigration from these areas is not altogether to be regretted; for although there are parts of the province, specially in the Surma Valley, where immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behar thrive and keep good health, the climate of other parts of the province is unsuited to them, and there is no doubt that the mortality lists are swelled by the deaths of unsuitable classes of coolies recruited from these local areas. Separate statistics relating to the Central Provinces are now available for three years, and show that the importations have been as follows:—1892, 1260; 1893, 896; 1894, 2,014. There was thus a considerable expansion in the immigration from these provinces during the year under report; but the majority of the immigrants seem to have been recruited through contractors, and only a small proportion through garden sardárs. The number of immigrants from the Madras Presidency in each of the last six years has been as follows:—1889, 689; 1890, 1,895; 1891, 2,018; 1892, 2,894; 1893, 767; 1894, 976. Before 1889 there had, for some years, been very little immigration from Madras. In that year the Madras Government removed the prohibition which had been in force against emigration to Assam, and the next three years showed a considerable development in the immigration from Ganjam, due partly to the scarcity and high prices prevailing there. During the last two years, however, the number of immigrants has fallen off considerably. District officers in this province are disposed to put this down to the bad class of coolies recently imported from Ganjam; but the more probable explanation seems to be that given by the Superintendent of Emigration, Ganjam, in his Annual Report for 1894, from which the following is an extract:

> There have been very special reasons preventing emigration in the last two years (*i.e.*, 1893 and 1894), *viz.*, good seasons, and the progress in the district of such large public works as the East Coast Railway and the Rushikulya project. After another month or two the East Coast Railway will not afford much employment to the coolie class, and it would not be safe to anticipate a continuance of favourable seasons. So that there are reasons for thinking that emigration to Assam has reached its minimum. There is evidently a very keen demand for labour in the tea-districts. I think it, therefore, likely that there will be an increase in emigration in 1895.

The Assam labourers shown in the above statement are natives of the province, and, therefore, not immigrants properly so called, but they are included in the district returns as having emigrated from one district within the province to another. The statement shows that the Assam immigrants for work on tea-gardens fell off from 566 in 1893 to 181 in 1894; this is no doubt due to natives of the province of the labouring classes seeking employment on the Assam-Bengal Railway in preference to tea-garden work.

The following table shows the relative order in which each of the principal localities of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations:

(a) Act Importations.

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1894.
	Garden Sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas ...	6,480	8,190	14,670
(2) Bengal Proper and Orissa	1,129	2,370	3,499
(3) Behar	805	839	1,644
(4) North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	538	1,025	1,563

(*b*) *Non-Act Importations.*

	Number of coolies imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	5,391
(2) Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas	3,163
(3) Bengal Proper and Orissa	1,505
(4) Behar	1,014

The relative position of the various localities of recruitment do not differ materially from their positions in previous years; the only difference as compared with 1893 is that Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have changed places as regards Act importations.

Female immigrants.

4. The proportion of women among adult immigrants from the principal localities of recruitment is shown below:

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to men among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894	1893.	1894.
Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas	48·9	46·4	46·9	43·2	50·5	45·9	48·2	44·8
Behar	40·9	43·5	42·9	39·7	36·4	42·5	39·3	41·8
Bengal Proper and Orissa ...	51·7	49·8	54·1	51·8	53·7	42·8	53·4	48·7
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	36·4	39·4	42·8	41·1	43·8	44·9	42·0	43·9

The proportion of women to men decreased considerably among immigrants from Bengal Proper and Orissa and from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, but increased slightly among immigrants from Behar and from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The proportion of children to adults imported also fell from 36 per cent. in 1893 to 30 per cent. in 1894. These figures show, as already explained, that there was much less family emigration during the year than in the preceding year. The proportion of women to men varies, as usual, according to the distance of the localities of recruitment from Assam; it is highest among immigrants from Bengal Proper, and lowest among those from Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Extent to which Act labourers were recruited by contractors and garden sardárs.

5. The following table shows the number of Act labourers imported during the past two years into each district and division of the province, the number imported through garden sardárs and contractors respectively, and the average number imported by each sardár:

District.	Sárdári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardárs.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1894, as compared with 1893.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	Sardári.	Contractors.
Cachar	1,341	818	456	488	2·9	1·6	1,193	827	−39·0	−30·6
Sylhet ...	561	909	589	785	·9	1·1	893	1,108	+62·0	+24·0
Total Surma Valley...	1,902	1,727	1,045	1,273	1·7	1·3	2,086	1,935	− 9·2	− 7·2
Kámrúp	137	105	...	7	...	15·0	67	44	−23·3	−34·3
Darrang... ...	1,808	1,106	388	489	4·6	2·2	2,284	3,334	−38·8	+45·9
Nowgong ...	317	298	116	159	2·7	1·8	764	1,097	− 5·9	+43·5
Sibságar... ...	4,406	3,778	1,797	1,645	2·4	2·3	2,571	3,547	−14·2	+37·9
Lakhimpur ...	3,140	2,729	1,267	1,230	2·4	2·2	6,532	4,023	−13·0	−38·4
Total Brahmaputra Valley ...	9,808	8,016	3,568	3,530	2·7	2·3	12,218	12,045	−18·2	− 1·4
Grand total ...	11,710	9,743	4,613	4,803	2·5	2·0	14,304	13,980	−16·8	− 2·2

The chief object of this statement is to show the extent to which sardári recruitment was successful during the year. So far as the Surma Valley districts are concerned, the

statement is of no practical use, as non-Act adults imported through garden sardárs are altogether excluded from it. In Sylhet and Cachar, where most of the recruits are brought up as non-Act immigrants, the large majority of non-Act adults are imported through garden sardárs; and it is quite clear that sardári recruitment is, and has been for many years, very successful for these two districts.

Recruits to the Assam Valley districts are mostly taken up to the actual labour districts under Act contracts executed either in the recruiting districts or at Dhubri, and the proportion of immigrants, who reach the labour districts as non-Act adults, is small (in 1893 only 13·3 per cent. of the total number of adult immigrants were non-Act adults, and in 1894 only 13·4 per cent.). The above statement, therefore, fairly represents the condition of sardári recruitment for the Assam Valley. It shows that each sardár recruited on an average only 2·3 labourers—a smaller average than that reported in any of the last six years except 1890. On this subject the following remarks were made in last year's report:—"On the whole, it appears that sardári recruitment has, for some years past, been unable to hold its own in the Assam Valley, and that employers have to recruit to a large extent through contractors. The reasons for this are not difficult to find. In the first place, coolies from Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh do not, as a rule, do well in the Assam Valley, and the chief recruiting grounds are Bengal Proper, and Chota Nagpur, and the Sonthal Parganas—the very localities in which the competition to obtain labourers is most keen. Secondly, owing to the extension of tea-planting operations, the demand for labour has much increased in late years. What would have been a fair supply eight or ten years ago, would now in most districts be considered altogether insufficient to supply requirements for extensions and to fill the annual vacancies in the labour force. This increased demand has arisen not only in the Assam and Surma Valleys, but also, the Officiating Chief Commissioner understands, among estates, in the Northern Bengal districts. Thirdly, the Assam Valley districts are less favourably situated in the competition for labourers than the Surma Valley or tea-districts outside this province. They are more remote, and therefore less known in the recruiting districts, and the journey to them is difficult and expensive. These reasons seem to account fully for the Assam Valley districts being unable to hold their own against other tea-districts in the competition for labourers without the assistance of organised professional recruiting agency. These conditions may possibly be modified when the Assam-Bengal Railway has been completed, and cheaper and more rapid communication established between the Assam Valley and the recruiting areas."

Medical examination of sardári immigrants.

6. The following figures show the number of sardárs' certificates in the several districts, which provided, under section 70 of the Act, for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement, and the proportion of such certificates to the total number of certificates to recruit granted to sardárs during the past two years:

District.	Number of certificates which provided for the medical examination of labourers.		Percentage of such certificates to certificates to recruit granted to sardárs.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	201	190	44·0	38·9
Sylhet	144	193	24·4	24·6
Kámrúp	...	7	...	100·0
Darrang	315	400	81·8	81·8
Nowgong	90	113	77·5	71·0
Sibságar	1,200	943	66·7	57·3
Lakhimpur	420	722	33·1	58·7
Total	2,370	2,568	51·3	53·4

The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that the proportion of certificates providing for medical examination of the recruits with a view to ascertaining their fitness to labour in the labour districts is steadily increasing; the percentage of such certificates was 49·8 in 1892 and 39 in 1891. In Sylhet and Cachar comparatively few certificates provide for medical examination; but the question is of less importance as regards

these two districts, as so large a proportion of the immigrants to them go up as non-Act labourers. In Sibságar the proportion of such certificates fell off; and though there has been an improvement in Lakhimpur, the percentage is still insufficient. The Chief Commissioner will be glad to see employers in these two districts make more use of this provision of the law.

It is hardly necessary to remind employers that Government holds them strictly responsible for the mortality among immigrants imported by them, and does not accept the excuse that the immigrants, among whom the mortality prevailed, were of inferior physique and unfit to have been sent up for tea-garden work. The law now provides ample facilities for the medical examination of sardári as well as contractors' recruits, and, under the Chief Commissioner's orders, the Civil Surgeon of Goálpára is authorised, upon the request of employers, to examine coolies contracting at Dhubri as to their fitness to labour on tea-estates. It is incumbent on employers to ascertain the fitness of coolies whom they import to stand the Assam climate and tea-garden work; and if they fail to take advantage of the means which are provided them for this purpose by the law and the Chief Commissioner's orders, they cannot expect to be treated with any consideration by the Administration in the event of action having to be taken against them under sections 128-132 of the Act for high mortality on their estates.

Statistics of free or assisted emigration.

7. The statement below shows separately the following classes of adult immigrants: (1) those recruited through contractors under Chapter III of the Act; (2) those recruited through garden sardárs under Chapter IV of the Act; (3) those who entered into contracts under the Act at Dhubri; (4) those who entered into contracts under the Act in the actual labour districts; and (5) those, who after arrival in the labour districts, were employed as non-Act labourers, not on contract under the Act:

District.	Act immigrants.			Free (non-Act) immigrants subsequently employed as Act labourers.			Free (non-Act) immigrants employed as free (non-Act) labourers and their dependents.			Grand total.
	Contracted in recruiting districts.									
	Under Chapter III of Act.	Under Chapter IV of Act.	Total.	Contracted at Dhubri.	Contracted in actual labour district.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total.	
Cachar	827	818	1,645	...	811	811	2,456	616	3,072	5,528
Sylhet	1,108	909	2,017	...	1,439	1,439	4,150	3,075	7,225	10,681
Total Surma Valley ...	1,935	1,727	3,662	...	2,250	2,250	6,606	3,691	10,297	16,209
Kámrúp	...	43	43	106	...	106	47	39	86	235
Darrang	772	1,190	1,962	2,478	2	2,480	287	932	1,219	5,661
Nowgong	248	298	546	849	...	849	174	384	558	1,953
Sibságar	1,209	1,738	2,947	4,378	327	4,705	580	3,145	3,725	11,377
Lakhimpur ...	2,918	2,729	5,647	1,105	79	1,184	1,631	2,633	4,264	11,095
Total Assam Valley ...	5,147	5,998	11,145	8,916	408	9,324	2,719	7,133	9,852	30,321
Grand total ...	7,082	7,725	14,807	8,916	2,658	11,574	9,325	10,824	20,149	46,530
Total of 1893. ...	4,995	7,842	12,837	13,472	2,630	16,102	8,499	13,532	22,031	50,970

This statement has been prepared to meet the wishes of the Government of India; but the details shown in it do not agree with the figures reported in other paragraphs of this Report, and it will, therefore, be useless to comment on it. The object of the statement is to show the extent to which the system of Dhubri contracts, with free or assisted emigration up to that point, prevailed during the year. The number of Dhubri contracts, as reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, was 12,464 during 1894 (see paragraph 25 below); and it seems to the Chief Commissioner quite clear that the number of contracts executed at Dhubri has been understated in the table given above, while the number of contracts executed in the recruiting districts for the Assam Valley has been considerably overstated. The Chief Commissioner will consider what steps can be taken to procure correct information for this statement in future. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts should at once consult the Deputy Commissioner of

Goálpára and other Deputy Commissioners of his division, and report what action should be taken for distributing the different classes of labourers correctly through the different columns of this statement.

Cost of importation.

8. As regards the cost of importing immigrants, there is no information of special interest to record. In the district reports in which this subject is noticed, it is stated that the cost is steadily rising.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley *viâ* Dhubri.

9. The information contained in this paragraph is taken from the Report on Immigration *viâ* Dhubri furnished by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára. During the year 21,425 immigrants and dependents are reported to have started from the recruiting districts for the Assam Valley, as compared with 22,410 in 1893; 20 died *en route*, as compared with 3 in the previous year; 57 absconded, as compared with 38; the number returned as "detained by sickness" was 105, as compared with 275; and there was one addition during the journey. The number reported as having arrived at Dhubri was 21,314 (including 70 persons who arrived on the last day of 1893), as compared with 22,141 (including 47 arrivals on the last day of 1892) in the preceding year. Of these, 13,311 (against 12,870 in 1893) came up by the Goalundo route, and 8,003 (against 9,271) by the Kaunia-Jatrapur route. The Goalundo route was thus more popular, as in the previous year; in 1892, however, a larger number of immigrants had travelled by Kaunia-Jatrapur. Of the total number who passed through the Dhubri depôts, 1,944 were sardári coolies with contracts executed in the recruiting districts; and the rest free or assisted emigrants; of the latter, 501 (against 167 in the previous year) were brought up to be passed on as non-Act adults, and 18,869 (against 20,407 in 1893) to be placed under contract at Dhubri or to proceed as dependents to coolies to be placed under contract; of this number (18,869), 1,916 were recruited through licensed sardárs, 5,187 through unlicensed sardárs, and 11,766 through contractors; the corresponding figures for the previous year were 2,309, 6,654, and 11,444. The number of labourers actually placed under contract at Dhubri was 12,464, as compared with 13,567 in 1893. In addition to the above, 10,996 immigrants and dependents were despatched direct for the tea-gardens in the Assam Valley from Goalundo.

Altogether 13,349 immigrants were medically examined at Dhubri previous to execution of contract, as compared with 14,362 in 1893; 885 were rejected as compared with 795; of these, 287 and 314 were sent up to the gardens as dependents or free labourers, as compared with 265 and 147 in the previous year; and 284 were returned to their homes as compared with 383. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára remarks as follows on these figures:

> The coolies that are put on contract at Dhubri are examined by the Civil Surgeon and, in his absence, by his assistant, as to their fitness to undertake the journey to the labour districts. They are not specially examined as to their fitness to labour on the tea-gardens, unless the employer has sent special instructions to this effect. I have no reason to doubt that these examinations have been properly conducted by the medical officers concerned. The depôt managers deal with the coolies rejected by the Civil Surgeon according to circumstances. Those having relations amongst the immigrants are sent up as dependents, some are sent as free labourers, and the rest are returned to their homes. The sick coolies are detained in the depôts for treatment. To one who comes fresh to the supervision of labour immigration to Assam through Dhubri, it would appear that the system which permits the Civil Surgeon's rejections to be sent up to the tea-gardens as dependents or as free labourers admits of improvement. The dependent or free labourer, as the case may be, as often as not dies soon after his arrival, and so increases the death-rate of the garden concerned. If he lives, he is unable to earn full wage, and so goes to swell the number of paupers on the garden. I came across recently a case of a garden in the Sibságar district which authorised the depôt manager to send up all Dhubri rejections as free labourers. In one particular case, that of a coolie woman who was rejected by the Civil Surgeon as unfit to travel on account of enlarged spleen, the manager put the woman under an Act-I local contract a few days after she arrived on the garden, although at the time of her arrival she was suffering from dysentery. The case attracted the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Pittar, who has taken steps, I understand, for the repatriation of the woman. Cases of this nature show how clearly Government is right in holding employers responsible for the importation of "bad batches."

The question whether immigrants medically rejected at Dhubri should be allowed to proceed to the labour districts is one which has frequently been considered by this Administration. On the one hand, a large proportion of such immigrants die shortly after reaching the garden, and their deaths increase the tea-garden mortality. On the other hand, where they are members of a batch of coolies, it would be undesirable, and, in some cases, impracticable, to refuse to allow them to go up with the other members of their batch, as their friends or relatives would probably refuse to go up without them. Under the present practice, the medically rejected immigrants are allowed to be sent up; and they are assisted by their families or friends after arrival at the garden, and are generally able to earn something themselves by light work—advantages which counterbalance the enhanced

liability to death to which they are subject in the labour districts. It would be a questionable kindness to them to separate them from their friends and turn them back to their native districts which they are desirous of leaving, and in which they would probably be unable to earn a livelihood. The above applies to immigrants accompanying their friends; when an immigrant is alone and is found medically unfit, it would be better to repatriate him at once.

From the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, it appears that 31,219 immigrants and dependents were despatched to the Assam Valley districts,—20,223 from Dhubri and 10,996 direct from Goalundo. But from the returns furnished by managers of tea-gardens, from which the statements in the preceding paragraphs of the Report have been compiled, it appears that only 30,321 immigrants and dependents altogether were imported into the Assam Valley districts in 1894. There is thus a difference of 898. Of course, there are a certain number of casualties *en route*, owing to deaths, desertions, and other causes; but they are comparatively few in number, and would not account for so large a difference. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, will be asked, if possible, to explain the discrepancy. The Deputy Commissioner reports that the three depôts at Dhubri are kept clean and neat, and have sufficient accommodation for coolies. Each depôt is provided with one or more masonry wells, and there are two native doctors attached to the three depôts.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

10. The statistics regarding the transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley are very imperfect. Immigrants travel partly by steamer and partly by country boat. In reviewing the figures for last year, the Officiating Chief Commissioner (Mr. Lyall) remarked that the whole subject of the transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley should be more fully dealt with by the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar, and that endeavour should be made to procure as complete and accurate information as possible, the most important points being (1) sickness and mortality in transit, (2) the extent to which rules under Bengal Act, I of 1889, are complied with, and (3) the extent to which steamers are used for the immigrant traffic in preference to country boats, and are gaining ground or otherwise on the latter mode of conveyance. Except as regards mortality in transit (which is dealt with in paragraph 13 below), very little information worth reproducing is given in the reports of the Deputy Commissioners. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that the rules under Act I (B.C.) of 1889 were complied with during the year as far as possible. The Chief Commissioner cannot understand why no attempt has been made to procure statistics of the immigrants who travelled by steamer. It is obviously desirable that this mode of conveyance should be encouraged as much as possible, as it is difficult to exercise effective sanitary supervision over immigrants travelling in country boats, or to ascertain, with any accuracy, what the mortality in transit is among them. The Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar will be asked to deal more fully with this subject in future, and to report at once what steps they are taking to be kept supplied with the necessary information.

Debarkation depôts.

11. The following statement shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year:

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts.				Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure.	
				Through want of a guide.	In hospital.	For segregation.	For night only.		Building.	Establishments, &c.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	2	5,528	2,210	...	507	71	744	92	1,805 7 0	3,503 13 6
Sylhet ...	5	10,681	6,061*	...	64	8	515	...	167 11 0	1,407 15 10
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	1	5,661	3,043	385	37	67	2,493	...	299 14 4	2,108 12 0
Nowgong ...	1	1,953	1,857	119	30	56	634	...	34 14 0	485 4 0
Sibságar ...	3	11,377	13,292†	2,295	108	104	1,099	...	592 10 0	2,562 11 5
Lakhimpur ...	1	11,095	8,914	390	69	128	947	...	376 5 0	1,670 2 3
Total ...	13	46,295	35,377	3,189	815	434	6,432	92	3,276 13 4	11,738 11 0
Total for 1893 ...	*13*	*50,344*	*38,234*	*4,766*	*754*	*111*	*8,454*	*22*	*3,970 14 9*	*10,900 13 5*

* Includes the number of imported coolies for Cachar, who passed through the Fenchuganj depôt.
† This includes 1,915 coolies for the Lakhimpur district.

The number and location of the depôts were the same as in the past year. The number of coolies detained through want of a guide (3,189) decreased considerably as compared with the previous year (4,766), and still more as compared with 1892 (13,684) ; but it is still large, especially in the Sibságar depôts. The rule (reproduced at page 122 of the Immigration Manual), which empowers Deputy Commissioners and subdivisional officers to charge an enhanced rate of fee in suitable cases in respect of coolies detained at the depôts for more than one day in consequence of the want of a guide, should be strictly enforced.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

12. The following figures show the number of deaths among all classes of immigrants at Dhubri and during transit from there to the gardens of the Assam Valley districts for the last two years :

	Number of deaths		
	From cholera.	From other causes.	Total.
At Dhubri	25	10	35
On board the steamer	31	4	35
At ports of debarkation—			
Gauháti	...	...	...
Tezpur	17	2	19
Silghat	2	3	5
Kokilamukh	13	3	16
Disangmukh	8	2	10
Nigriting	5	...	5
Mohanamukh	16	2	18
Total	117	26	143
Total for 1893	*7*	*25*	*32*

The increased mortality was due to the prevalence along the Brahmaputra route of cholera, which was almost entirely absent in 1893. The Chief Commissioner has no reason to suppose that this disease was caused, or aggravated, by unsanitary conditions on board the steamers or along the route. The following figures show the number of deaths from cholera in transit for the preceding five years :—1888, 771 ; 1889, 374 ; 1890, 22 ; 1891, 83 ; 1892, 233. The number of deaths from cholera in 1894 was thus large, but not exceptionally large.

In addition to the deaths shown in the above table, 19 deaths occurred on board the steamers between Dhubri and Dibrugarh among immigrants who were shipped direct from Goalundo to the tea districts, and did not stop at Dhubri. It has been the practice hitherto not to include the deaths of such immigrants occurring on board the steamers in the above statement. But they should be included in future, as it is desirable that the table should contain a complete statement of the mortality in transit among all classes of immigrants between Dhubri and the tea-gardens for which they are destined.

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley.

13. The statistics of mortality among immigrants during their journey from Goalundo to the Sylhet and Cachar districts are very incomplete. The following figures, which have been furnished by the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar, give statistics regarding the batches of labourers and their dependents, who passed through the Government depôts:

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who passed through the depôts.	Deaths.		
			En route from Goalundo.	In hospital.	Total.
Cachar	1894	2,243	13*	30	43
	1893	2,685	15	22	37
Sylhet	1894	6,061	4	10	14
	1893	4,912	6	7	13

* 4 on steamers, and 9 on country boats.

The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, explains that "the only information which can be given under the head of mortality in transit, is what can be gathered from the way-bills and from the verbal statements of peons and sardárs who accompany the batches of coolies proceeding up by country boats . . . . The figures entered in these statements against deaths *en route* have been arrived at, in the case of deaths on the steamer, from the way-bills, and, in the case of deaths on boats, from the verbal statements of the peons and sardárs in charge, and partly also from the way-bills." It appears that there were only 4 deaths on steamers as compared with 9 on country boats; but, in the absence of particulars as to the immigrants who died in hospital and as to the proportion of the immigrants who travelled by each of these modes of conveyance, this information is of very little value.

No explanation of the figures for Sylhet has been given by the Deputy Commissioner. The figures appear to be very unreliable, but it is clear that the record of sickness and mortality *en route* to the Surma Valley will never be even approximately correct until some better system is devised for getting information. The Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar will be asked what action can be taken to obtain more complete and correct information on this point.

Fraudulent and irregular recruitment. Results of enquiries at Dhubri.

14. During the year a careful watch was kept, as usual, in regard to complaints of fraudulent and irregular practices in connection with the recruitment and transport of immigrants. Bi-monthly statements from district officers are submitted to the Chief Commissioner on this subject, and, when necessary, action is taken by the Chief Commissioner.

The results of enquiries made on this subject at Dhubri are as follows. Enquiries are made at this station in three classes of cases, *viz.*,—

(*a*) in consequence of communications received from the districts of recruitment, either in the form of a letter from the Magistrate, or subdivisional officer, or District Superintendent of Police, or in the form of a petition or letter by post from the relatives of the persons supposed to have been fraudulently recruited;

(*b*) on complaints made directly by the person concerned at Dhubri at the time of registration; and

(*c*) in cases in which no such complaint is made, when the registering officer thinks that it is likely that any fraud has been practised in the recruitment of women or young persons who come unaccompanied by relatives and who seem hardly capable of looking after themselves.

The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára has forwarded a list of cases of the (*a*) class described above, showing an abstract of the complaint made, the action taken, and the final result in each case. "Altogether 86 complaints or reports were received, the large majority from district officers in the recruiting districts, bringing to notice cases of supposed fraudulent or irregular recruitment. In 66 cases, the immigrants said to have been wrongfully recruited could not be traced, and there was nothing to show that they had really come to Assam; in two cases it appears that boy-immigrants supposed to have been enticed away could not be traced as having come to Assam, but were subsequently recovered by their relations in the recruiting districts; five cases were found to be groundless, the immigrants having executed agreements and come up willingly; in five other cases the complaints were found to be either groundless or not proved (the Deputy Commissioner's report does not show clearly whether these cases were actually false or merely not proved); in two cases the complaints were found to be true, and the immigrants concerned had their contracts cancelled, and were repatriated to their native districts; and six cases were still pending at the close of the year.

Regarding cases of the (*b*) and (*c*) classes, the Deputy Commissioner reports as follows:

Cases of (*b*) description for 1894 are as follows:

One woman, with a child, complained before the registering officer that she had been enticed away from her home; she was forwarded to the Magistrate of Manbhum in charge of a peon for enquiry. It was reported that on her arrival at the railway stationthere, her relations took her away to her home. No case was instituted by them. Another woman complained before the registering officer that she had been enticed away from her husband; she was sent back to the contractor's depôt from which she came to be detained pending enquiries; but on enquiry it was proved that a false statement had been made by her. She was ordered to be set free.

Cases of (*c*) description for 1894 are as follows.

In seventeen cases no action was taken by the fathers, husbands, guardians, or other relatives to recover the women, all of whom were of full age. In six cases the women were reported as having

come willingly to work on tea-estates in Assam. In two cases, one woman was returned to Mr. Driver at Ranchi, and two women were sent back to their homes. In twenty-six cases theattempt to trace the women's antecedents failed. In one case no steps were taken to recover the woman by her mother-in-law, who sent her to Assam ; and no trace of one woman was found. One woman willingly came to serve in Assam. In one case no traces of two women were found, and one woman willingly came to serve in Assam. In one case no trace of a woman was found ; and two women's residences were found, but their guardians did not take any steps to recover them.

Cases of fraudulent or irregular recruitment reported from the actual labour districts.

15. The following is an account of the cases of fraudulent and irregular recruitment reported from the actual labour districts. These are much more important than the cases reported from Dhubri, as in the Dhubri cases, as will be seen from what has been said above, enquiries are made in the very large majority of cases on mere suspicion.

In the Cachar district, one complaint of fraudulent recruitment was made, which proved to be false. The Deputy Commissioner describes this as follows :

One Giridhari Paizo, of Serango, an Act coolie of the Marticherra tea-estate, complained that he was recruited under false pretences. Reference was made to the Collector of Ganjam through the Magistrate, Cuttack, who reported thus :—" Superintendent of Emigration, Gopalpur, reports that the man in question was put under contract before him on the 17th April last, having been recruited by a garden sardár named Narsingo, on behalf of local agent, C. H. Singh, and the Superintendent was very particular in ascertaining from him that he was willing to go to Assam, and that he thoroughly understood the terms and nature of his contract regarding work, wages, price of food, &c. I may add that, judging from the man's name, I think it unlikely that he would have agreed to enlist for ordinary coolie work." The man was subsequently sent to the garden, as, in the face of the above report, there appeared no reason to cancel the contract. No complaint was made by the man till, after having been several months in the garden, he deserted, and, being arrested, was placed upon trial under section 175 of the Act. The Magistrate submitted the case to me for orders, and I then made a reference, as already stated, to the Magistrate of Ganjam.

In the Sylhet district two cases occurred during the year, of which the Deputy Commissioner gives the following account :

Only two cases of fraudulent (or alleged fraudulent) recruitment are reported. One case related to a batch of thirty-four coolies imported for one of the South Sylhet Tea Company's gardens. They complained at Maulvi Bazar that they had been told they would get some service in Calcutta. They had contracts executed in Calcutta. On reference to the Superintendent of Emigration, it was shown that their contracts, and where they were to serve, were clearly explained to them. They were, therefore, sent on to the garden.

In another case, a woman named Ghasi, bound for the Silkuri tea-estate in Cachar under contract executed in Bengal, landed at Fenchuganj, and refused to proceed. She said she had been told to agree to all that was told her by the registering officer in order to carry out a plan. She was eventually sent back to her home at the expense of the garden for which she was recruited.

The garden (Gayeshnagar), which obtained an unenviable notoriety last year, was duly watched. The assistant, Loader, is not now in the district. No complaints arose from the garden during the year under report.

The Deputy Commissioner of Kámrúp reports the following case from his district :

During the year under report only one case of fraudulent recruitment was received by me the facts of which are stated below :

A woman named Golabi, by caste Brahmin, of village Tekrupara in the Raipur district, was fraudulently recruited by an *arkati* woman, named Gauri, from her home for a tea-estate in Dibrugarh belonging to Babu Haris Chandra Bagchi, a pleader there. She was brought to Goalundo by the female *arkati*, and appears to have complained *en route* of the fact of her having been fraudulently recruited. The real offender could not be identified, and I cancelled the contract, and sent the woman back to her home at the expense of the manager of the garden to which she was to have been sent.

In the Darrang district, fifteen cases were reported during the year. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following description of them :

(1) The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum requested that an enquiry should be made regarding the recruitment of one Nitai Goala. The coolie's statement was recorded. He, however, said that he willingly gave a four years' contract.

(2) At the request of the subdivisional officer, Dumka, the statement of one Sikadar coolie was recorded and forwarded to Dumka. He stated that he came willingly to Assam.

(3) *Paru Majhi.*—At the request of the subdivisional officer, Jamtara, I forwarded the coolie to him. The final result has not yet been communicated.

(4) *Kasi Bawrini.*—In forwarding a letter from the Magistrate of Bankura, the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára asked for an enquiry and report as to the circumstances under which the coolie woman was recruited. Her statement was recorded, and forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, who reports that he addressed the Magistrate of Bankura, and asked him to inform the mother of Kasi as to her whereabouts, in order to enable her to take action for the recovery of her daughter. The case is pending in Bengal.

(5) *Choitna.*—Enquiry was made at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum. It was found that the woman came to Assam of her own free will.

(6) *Lallia.*—This woman made a complaint to the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Tezpur coolie depôt that she was recruited against her will. Enquiry was made at Hazaribagh and Giridi. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts declined to take further action in the matter.

(7) *Mussamat Goera.*—At the request of the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Tezpur coolie depôt, enquiry was made as to the circumstances under which the coolie woman was recruited. No irregularity in recruiting was found. The contract of the woman, however, has been cancelled under section 122, Act I of 1882, and she has been sent back to her home.

(8) *Lathi.*—The statement of this coolie was recorded at the request of the subdivisional officer, Dumka, and an enquiry was made there. The case proved to be true that the coolie had been improperly sent up. The contract was cancelled under section 11A, and the man was sent back to his home at the cost of the employer.

(9) *Maga Dom.*—Enquiry was made at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum. It was found that the coolie had been improperly recruited. The contract has been cancelled, and he has been repatriated at the employer's expense.

(10) *Montaria and Chamia.*—The two women were brought to Assam as free labourers for the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Dibrugarh. Their statements were recorded. One of the women had a husband at the Kathalguri garden. The other woman was her sister. They are now at the Kathalguri tea-garden, where they have entered into agreements. Under the circumstances no further enquiry was necessary.

(11) *Mussamat Jiania.*—At the instance of the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Tezpur coolie depôt, the statement of the coolie woman was recorded, and copies forwarded to the Deputy Commissioners of the Sonthal Parganas, Manbhum, and Goálpára, and the Magistrate of Monghyr, for enquiry and report. The women absconded in the meantime.

(12) *Mussamat Sumi.*—At the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, enquiry was made into the circumstances under which the woman was recruited. The contract was cancelled under section 11A, and she was sent back to her home at the expense of the garden.

(13) *Mukta and Taran Devi.*—The subdivisional officer, Mangaldai, recorded the statements of these two women. There was no reason to believe that they were recruited improperly.

(14) *Duhita and Kanai, alias Kasi.*—These two coolies complained that they had been enticed. Enquiry was made, and it was found that they had been irregularly recruited. Their contracts were cancelled under section 11A, and they were repatriated accordingly at the manager's expense.

(15) *Raghunath.*—The coolie appeared to have been fraudulently recruited. The contract was cancelled and the man sent back to his home at the manager's expense.

The Deputy Commissioner has omitted to state whether the coolies concerned in the above cases were on contract or not, and whether their contracts were executed in this province or in the recruiting provinces. But six of these cases have been considered by the Chief Commissioner during the year; and it appears from the papers on record that in Nos. (8), (9), and (12) the contract was executed at Dhubri, and in Nos. (13) and (14) in Bengal.

In the Nowgong district there was one case. The Deputy Commissioner reports this as follows:

A woman named Manoda, *alias* Bhuban, one of a batch covered by way-bill No. 4 from H. L. Mukerji, of Dhubri, to the Kellyden garden in this district, complained to the Chief Commissioner (Mr. W. E. Ward) on his way up the river below Goálpára on board steamer *Miri*, on the 11th October 1894, that she had been fraudulently recruited. She had apparently no friends or relations among the batch, and signed the agreement without protest at Dhubri. The statement of the woman, recorded by Assistant Commissioner Mr. W. A. M. Duncan on board, was,—"Mussamat Manoda, caste Vaisnav, father's name Sukildas, of village Senri, thana Senri, zilla Raniganj, says:—'I do not wish to go to Assam. I signed a contract at Dhubri, and told the *hakim* there that I went of my own accord. I did so, because I was afraid of the chaprasi. The chaprasi, whose name I do not know, brought me from Naihati, *viâ* Goalundo. One Umsa Kuri brought me from my home to Naihati. I have no husband; he is dead. His name was Indi. I have one child, aged about 8; it is at my father-in-law's. Umsa came to my house, and said 'take a betel-nut.' I did so. He then said '*chalo.*' I went with him. He took me away by force. I have not made any complaint before now. My father is alive. The chaprasi gave me the name of Bhuban." Copy of this statement was sent to the Magistrate of Birbhum for enquiry into the circumstances under which she was recruited in his district; but, before the result of the enquiry was received, the contract of the woman was cancelled at the request of the manager by mutual consent on the 3rd December 1894, and she was repatriated at the expense of the garden. The Magistrate of Birbhum, who required her presence for a criminal prosecution against Umsa Kuri (said to have enticed the woman from her home and sent her up to Assam), was informed accordingly.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar writes as follows regarding the twenty-five cases reported from that district:

There were 25 cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment of labourers for this district during the year under report as compared with 15 in the previous year. The facts of each case are briefly given below. It will be seen that 4 cases related to contracts executed in the recruiting district, and 11 to contracts executed at Dhubri. In one case no contract had been executed, and in 9 it was not

ascertained whether there was any contract. Of the 4 cases found to be true, contracts had been given at Dhubri in 2 cases and in the recruiting district in 1 case. The remaining case was that of a free labourer sent up to be put under contract at Dhubri, but rejected there as physically unfit.

(1) A coolie woman named Josoda Koiri, on disembarking at Desangmukh, complained that she had been fraudulently enticed from her home to work as a coolie for the Rajabari tea-garden. The case was eventually the subject of a judicial trial by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, who arrived at the conclusion that the woman must have been recruited by fraud or coercion, and that the contract should be rescinded. Accordingly the contract has been cancelled by order of the Local Government under section 11A of the Assam Labour and Immigration Act.

(2) At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, an enquiry was instituted regarding a man named Kirtibas Napit, who was said to have been enticed away and sent to the Missamara tea-garden in the Golághát subdivision. It was found that there was no evidence beyond his own statement that he was fraudulently recruited; he was of full age, and had executed an agreement before a Magistrate without making any complaint.

(3) The Deputy Magistrate of Dumka asked to have recorded the statement of one Gunda Kole, said to be a coolie on Mohima tea-estate, as to the circumstances under which he left his house. It was found that the coolie had deserted from the garden. The Deputy Magistrate, Dumka, dismissed the complaint which had been made with regard to him under section 203, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(4) The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum asked to have an enquiry made into the case of one Madhab said to have been fraudulently recruited for the Bihora tea-garden. On enquiry it turned out that the coolie was of age, and had executed the contract of his own free will.

5) The District Superintendent of Police, Murshidabad, reported that a married woman, named Sashi Goalini, of Birbhum, was alleged to have been abducted from the lawful guardianship of her husband, and requested to have her statement recorded. She said that she had left her home on account of the ill-treatment she received from her husband, and would not return to her country. The Magistrate of Murshidabad found the case to be one of mistake of fact, section 367, Indian Penal Code.

(6) Two coolies, Gurbari Bhumiz and Raidas, complained before the Assistant Commissioner of Jorhát at the Kokilamukh coolie depôt that they were enticed away and brought as coolies to the Roha garden in the Nowgong district, from which they ran away to Kokilamukh. On enquiry it was found that they had been prosecuted for desertion from the Noabari garden in Jorhát, on which they had contracted to labour, and that their complaint was false.

(7) The Assistant Commissioner of Jorhát recorded the statement of one Mussamat Chamot Kari employed on the Jorhát Tea Company's gardens, to the effect that she was a cook in Calcutta, and was brought up to Assam on the pretence that she would get better employment. On enquiry, the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, reported that the woman had in all probability been willing to proceed to Assam, but had subsequently changed her mind about working on a tea plantation after experiencing the nature of the work. The woman absconded from the garden, and no further action was taken.

(8) The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum asked to have recorded the statement of a coolie named Jagannath Ghasi, said to have been improperly recruited and sent to Lettekujan garden in the Golághát subdivision. The coolie stated that he had come of his own free will, and was willing to remain in the garden.

(9) At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhum, the Assistant Commissioner of Jorhát recorded the statement of two coolies, named Chanchala and Gurbari Ghasini, recruited in that district. They said that their uncle took them to Purulia on pretext of seeing a *jatra*, and then put them in a depôt, whence they were sent off to Dhubri. Then, they alleged, through fear of ill-treatment by the chaprasi who came with them, they had said they were willing to proceed to Assam. The Deputy Commissioner, Singbhum, after enquiry, wrote that he saw no ground for cancelling the contracts.

(10) At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, the statement of a coolie woman, named Ahladi Madini, of Rangamati tea-garden, was recorded. She said she had come up from Purulia with one Rabin Sardar of her own free will, having quarrelled with her husband.

(11) The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga requested the Assistant Commissioner of Jorhát to record the statement of Mussamat Bhutuni said to have been enticed away from her husband's guardianship. The woman could not be traced at the Meleng garden, for which she was said to have been recruited. The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga subsequently reported that she was of age, and that her husband had withdrawn his complaint.

(12) At the request of the Deputy Magistrate of Dumka, enquiry was made as to the age of Mussamat Nandini Majhini, and her statement was recorded. She said that she had come to Assam of her own accord, and had no complaint to make ; but it appeared that her age was under sixteen years. She was sent to Dumka on a warrant issued by the Deputy Magistrate, and the result of the case has not yet been communicated.

(13) At the request of the Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Dumka, the statements of Murra Majhi and Barro Majhi were recorded by the Assistant Commissioner of Jorhát. Murra Majhi said that he had no complaint to make against any one. Barro Majhi stated that he had been brought to Dumka by an *arkati* who told him he could get him work there, and that then he was taken to a depôt and sent to Calcutta and thence to Assam. His age was reported to be fully fifty-two years. The Deputy Magistrate of Dumka dismissed the case relating to these men under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

(14) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, enquiries were instituted with regard to a woman, named Randhon, recruited for the Lettekujan tea-garden in the Golághát subdivision. She stated that she was unmarried and had been fraudulently recruited without the knowledge of her father, but gave no particulars. Enquiries in this case are pending.

(15) At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, the statement of a coolie woman, named Ujola, *alias* Sankari, of the Lettekujan tea-estate, was recorded with a view to ascertain the circumstances under which she had left her husband's house. She stated that she was the wife of one Rakhal, and came up to Assam with him willingly.

(16) A coolie woman, named Sita, complained before Mr. Pittar, while he was inspecting the Domerdallang tea-garden, that she had been enticed up to Assam by a sardár three years back. On enquiry the complaint appeared to be false.

(17) Messrs. McLeod & Co., of Calcutta, wrote that two coolies, named Budhini and Nagu, recruited for South Sylhet, had been forcibly abducted by some *arkatis* on the East Indian Railway at Muddapur; that the case had been reported to the subdivisional officer, Deoghar, who ordered an investigation by the police; and that on police enquiry it had been ascertained that the coolies had been sent through a Raniganj depôt to the Joboka tea-estate under false names. The manager of Joboka was written to, but replied that he could not trace them in his garden. Messrs. McLeod & Co. were then referred to for further particulars, which would enable the coolies to be traced, but replied that they had dropped the matter, seeing that the expenses they would have to incur to bring the coolies down as witnesses would be more than they cared to incur.

(18) A boy, named Hrishikesh Chaturji, son of the Sub-Registrar of the Jamtara subdivision in the Sonthal Parganas, was reported by the subdivisional officer of Jamtara to have been improperly recruited for the Borbam tea-estate. On enquiry it appeared that the boy was a student of the fifth class of the Government school at Howrah. His age was reported by the Civil Surgeon to be about 15 years; he had been enticed up to Assam on promise of plenty of employment on good pay. The contract was cancelled by order of the Local Government under section 11A of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, and the boy repatriated. The contract was executed before the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta.

(19) One Radha Patwai, of Hazaribagh, lodged a complaint in the Court of the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sibságar, that his two sons, Bhoglu and Kanai, both minors, had been enticed away, and brought as coolies to the Dholebagan garden. He had also made a complaint before the subdivisional officer of Giridi. The complainant's sons were examined by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, and said that they had been tempted by one Sibcharan to come to Assam, where the sardár said that Bhoglu would have to do muharrir's work and Kanai would sew clothes. The contracts were executed at Dhubri. The result of the police enquiry at Hazaribagh showed that they were not minors, and that they had left their homes in search of work. The case was accordingly dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

(20) A man, named Sonaton, enticed a boy of 16 or 17 years of age, named Aklu Mahali, into a depôt at Raniganj on the pretence of getting him employment on high wages. The boy was sent up to Assam to work as a coolie in the Notunmati garden of the Joboka Tea Company. His father complained before the subdivisional officer of Dumka, and a charge of cheating having been established, Sonaton was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under section 417, Indian Penal Code. The contract was cancelled by order of the Local Government under section 11A of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. Aklu Mahali having been already sent to Dumka as witness in the criminal case, it was not necessary to repatriate him.

(21) The subdivisional officer, Dumka, forwarded a descriptive roll of one Bidhu Moirani, working as a coolie under the Singlo Tea Company, and requested to have her statement recorded. She said that one Saroda brought her to a depôt at Raniganj, whence she was sent up to Dhubri. Then she was told to go back to her country; but her companions told her not to go back, but to come with them. On enquiry it was found that the woman had been rejected at Dhubri by the Civil Surgeon as unfit for labour on account of enlarged spleen. Her child died of chronic dysentery in the garden. The Superintendent of the Singlo Tea Company expressed regret at the ill-judged action of his recruiting overseer in sending up the woman. She has now been repatriated at the expense of the Company.

(22) Five coolie women, named Bhagabati, Chamari, Tulsa, Sabitri, and Sundhar, on their way to the Assam Company's garden, complained to the Deputy Commissioner, Sibságar, that they had been enticed away from Raipur by one Sundhar Lal, wrongfully confined, and sent up to Assam as coolies. After having enquiry made in their country, Mr. Pittar, Deputy Commissioner, was of opinion that there must have been misrepresentation used in inducing the women to come up to Assam, and he accordingly reported the case to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, recommending him to move the Chief Commissioner for the cancelment of the contracts of Sabitri, Sundhar, and Bhagabati under section 11A, the other two women having absconded in the meanwhile. The Chief Commissioner's orders are awaited.* The contracts were executed at Dhubri.

* Orders since issued cancelling contracts.

(23) Three coolies, Khanchan, Murakhon, and Ramkur, who deserted from the Assam Company's gardens, and were afterwards arrested, made a statement to the effect that Khanchan had come from the Bilaspur district with Ramkur, her sister, and Murakhon, her servant, to search for Khanchan's husband, who had gone to Assam with a sahib. The Deputy Commissioner, Bilaspur, was referred to, and, after enquiry, reported that no clue could be found of the persons named. The labour contract was executed at Dhubri.

(24) In consequence of a report forwarded by the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, from the Assistant Surgeon at Tezpur about the alleged fraudulent recruitment of two coolie women, Puti and Mongu, their statements were recorded. Puti said that she had been taken to Dhubri by an *arkati*

named Chiraton with whom she had lived for about four months as his wife, on the pretence of taking her to Calcutta to see his relations, and that as the steamer was leaving Dhubri, the *arkati* went on shore leaving her on board, so that she was taken on to Tezpur, where she complained to the Assistant Surgeon. She was afterwards taken to the Badlipur tea-estate in this district. Mongu, who had been brought to the same garden, stated that she lived with an *arkati* named Pitbor as his wife, and was brought to Dhubri by him under the impression that she was going to Calcutta. She made a complaint at Tezpur that she was not willing to go on to the garden. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára reported that the women were put under contract by him personally, and that neither of them made any complaint. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, however, after enquiry, gave it as his opinion that the women were induced to enter into labour contracts at Dhubri by fraud and misrepresentation. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts has accordingly been requested, in this office letter No. 932E., dated the 21st March 1895, to move the Local Government for the cancelment of the contracts under section 11A of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act.*

* Orders since issued cancelling contracts.

(25) The Deputy Magistrate of Diamond Harbour asked that an enquiry might be held as to whether a boy named Omer, aged about 14 years, had been imported as a coolie for the Joboka tea-garden, his mother having lodged a complaint of kidnapping against his uncle. The boy was sent for from the Joboka garden, and his statement recorded to the effect that Dores Mulla (his uncle) had brought him to Calcutta on pretence of taking him to his zamindar to pay arrears of rent, and had then taken him to the house of an *arkati*, named Munshi Saheb, in Sealdah. The *arkati* brought him to Dhubri, where, he alleges, he signed an agreement under compulsion. Copy of his statement has been forwarded to the Deputy Magistrate of Diamond Harbour.

In Lakhimpur thirty-two cases of alleged wrongful recruitment were reported during the year. The following is an abstract of the description of each given by the Deputy Commissioner, the description itself being too lengthy for reproduction. The Deputy Commissioner mentions thirty-three cases in his report, but one of them was a case belonging to the previous year.

(1) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, enquiry was made into the recruitment of a boy, said to be twelve years old. It turned out on enquiry that the boy was about eighteen, and that he had executed a contract at Dhubri. A conviction under section 417 was subsequently obtained in the recruiting district against one of the persons concerned in his recruitment; and, at the time the Deputy Commissioner submitted his report, the manager of the estate, on which the boy was employed, had been called upon to show cause why his contract should not be cancelled.

(2) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, enquiry was made into the case of a labourer who complained of having been intimidated into executing a contract at Dhubri. It was ascertained, after enquiry in Manbhum, that the man had been a willing emigrant and had executed his contract willingly.

(3) One Isan Chandra Adhikari and Gopal Chandra Das petitioned the Chief Commissioner of Assam for the repatriation of one Naninath Adhikari, of Madhabpur, on the ground that he had been fraudulently recruited by one Rajani Kanta Biswas and sent to Assam to work as a coolie. This petition was forwarded to the Lakhimpur district by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, and enquiries were instituted thereupon. Before any trace of the man had been found, the said Nani appeared in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner in person, with his wife Harimati and another coolie, Bhaju. They had been arrested on the Sibságar road, and were being prosecuted for desertion by the Manager of the Greenwood tea-estate. All these complained of wrongful recruitment, and criminal proceedings were accordingly stopped, and their statements recorded. Two other coolies of the same *chálán*, Mussamat Damini and Mussamat Basanti, were examined on behalf of Nani. These women also complained that they had been induced to come to Assam by Mati and Haran Babus, respectively, under promise of being kept by them. It was finally held, after enquiry made in the recruiting district (24-Parganas), that the recruitment of Nani and Harimati was fraudulent, and, under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, their agreements were cancelled under section 11A; but the expenses of their repatriation were not paid them, as Nani obtained employment in the railway on a salary of Rs. 15 a month, and Harimati elected to remain with him. The cases of the other coolies were still under enquiry in the recruiting district at the end of the year. It appears that all these contracts were executed in Calcutta.

(4) The Deputy Commissioner, Lohardaga, forwarded a complaint, made to him, of the abduction of a girl who had executed a contract at Dhubri. On enquiry it appeared that she was a woman of full age, and admitted having entered into a contract willingly, at Dhubri. Her statement was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, who reported that the complainant, a relative of the woman's, had dropped the case.

(5) The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga forwarded another complaint of the enticement of a girl, said to be eleven years of age. It was found on enquiry that the woman was over twenty, and had emigrated willingly. The complainant was her brother.

(6) A woman complained to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum of the fraudulent recruitment of her husband, who had executed a contract at Dhubri. On enquiry the complaint was not substantiated.

(7) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, enquiry was made regarding the recruitment of a woman who had entered into a contract at Dhubri. It was discovered that her employers had sent her back to Bengal, as she was unsuited for labour on their estate.

(8) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, enquiry was made regarding the recruitment of a coolie, said to be fourteen (but found to be really about twenty), who complained of having been intimidated into executing a contract at Dhubri. It was decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, in communication with the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, that the complaint had not been substantiated.

(9) The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum reported that a woman's mother had complained of her fraudulent recruitment. The woman was sent for and examined. She was of full age, and said that she had been abandoned by her husband and had come up to the labour district with her aunt, and did not wish to return home.

(10) A man, describing himself as a shopkeeper in Faridpur, complained of having been enticed up to Assam on the promise of getting a Government appointment. He denied having executed a contract. It was proved that he had executed a contract at Calcutta, and the District Magistrate of Faridpur, to whom a reference was made, reported that no person of his name and description could be traced in his district.

(11) At the instance of the subdivisional officer, Raniganj, enquiry was made regarding a woman said by her husband to have been fraudulently conveyed to Assam. The woman could not be traced in the Lakhimpur district.

(12) An enquiry made at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, had the same result, *viz.*, that the woman could not be traced in Lakhimpur.

(13) At the request of the District Magistrate of Bankura, the statement of a woman (Lalit of Dumduma tea-estate) was recorded, and sent to him. She complained of having been fraudulently brought to Assam, and wished to return home to her husband. The District Magistrate of Bankura, after receiving the statement, reported that no criminal case would lie, as the woman was over age, but that her husband had been informed of her whereabouts. No further action was taken by the husband.

This is a case in which, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, some further enquiry should have been made by the Deputy Commissioner to ascertain the circumstances of the woman's recruitment. The Deputy Commissioner will be requested to make further enquiry now, and to report whether, in his opinion, there are grounds for cancelling the woman's contract and repatriating her to her native district.

(14) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, acting on a complaint made by a man, apparently alleging himself to be the husband of a woman wrongfully recruited, the statement of the woman was taken. The statement was sent, in original, to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, and no description of it could be given by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum subsequently reported that the complainant was not her husband. There was no evidence to support the complaint, and no further action was taken.

(15) At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, enquiry was made regarding a man said to have been wrongfully conveyed to Assam. The man stated that he had been forcibly brought to Dhubri, but admitted having had his contract explained to him there and having signed it. The Assistant Commissioner, who examined him, had some doubt as to his sanity, but he was examined by the Civil Surgeon and declared to be sane. The result of the enquiry was communicated to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum. The man returned to the garden.

(16) & (17) In two cases in which enquiry was made at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum regarding the recruitment of two women, no irregularity was established. The complainants in the recruiting districts took no steps to recover the women.

(18) In an enquiry instituted at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga and the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, it was ascertained that a woman, said to have been fraudulently recruited, had come up with a man who, as she said, was her husband, and that she had no wish to return home.

(19) A woman, examined at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, stated that she wished to return to her husband, and that she had been induced to execute a contract at Dhubri against her will; she had, according to her account, complained to the *Sahib* (presumably the Magistrate, but possibly the depôt Manager) at Dhubri at the time she executed her contract, but the *Sahib* paid no attention to her complaint. It was ascertained on enquiry in the recruiting district that she was a prostitute, and her complaint was found false.

(20) An enquiry was made at the instance of the Magistrate of the Sonthal Parganas regarding the recruitment of a woman. It does not appear from the Deputy Commissioner's report whether any irregularity was complained of; but it would seem that her friends in the recruiting district, who had instituted proceedings, withdrew their complaint.

(21) A case in which two young men, said to be over sixteen, were reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, on the complaint of their relatives, to have been brought up to Assam under false pretences, was still under enquiry when the Deputy Commissioner submitted his report.

(22) A case in which a woman complained to the Assistant Surgeon at the Tezpur depôt of having been fraudulently enticed to Assam, was found to be false after an enquiry made by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur in communication with the Deputy Commissioner of her native district, Sambalpur.

(23) A complaint made by a man of having been forcibly kidnapped and taken to Dhubri and induced by intimidation to execute a contract there, was found to be untrue after an enquiry made in the recruiting district (Manbhum).

(24) A complaint made by a man representing himself to be the husband of a coolie woman that she had been improperly taken to Dhubri and made to execute a contract there, was found false. The enquiry showed that the complainant was not her husband. The woman's contract was, however, cancelled by private arrangement with the manager.

(25) On an enquiry made at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner Lohardaga, it was found that a woman had been fraudulently recruited. She was sent back to Lohardaga, and two persons concerned in her recruitment were convicted under sections 414 and 417 of the Penal Code, and sentenced to imprisonment and fine.

(26) A complaint was made by a woman to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum that her son had been recruited under the influence of drugs. The man's statement was to the effect that he had been induced to proceed under the influence of *ganja*, and had executed an agreement at Dhubri through fear. There was nothing to show the truth of the complaint, but the man's contract was redeemed by private arrangement with the manager, and he was sent back to his own district.

(27) A complaint made by a coolie of having been induced to come to Assam under promise of being provided with a place as writer, was received through the Revd. Mr. Dowding. The complaint was enquired into, but there was no reason to believe that the man had been improperly recruited.

(28) A woman, examined at the request of the subdivisional officer, Rampur Hat, complained of having been improperly induced to proceed to Assam. The complaint was found true, and three persons concerned in her recruitment were convicted under section 342 of the Penal Code. At the time his report was submitted, steps were being taken by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur to repatriate the woman.

(29) A labourer, who had emigrated to a garden to which his so-called wife had come before him, refused, on arrival, to execute a contract, and was not allowed by the manager to remain on the garden. He complained to the Deputy Commissioner, through the Revd. Mr. Dowding. The wife was sent for, and said that she had left her husband in Calcutta, and had been fraudulently induced by another man to come up to Assam. She was under a contract purporting to have been executed under Act XIII of 1859, which was invalid, no advance having been given, as contemplated by that Act. Her contract was accordingly declared void, and a reference was made to the proper authorities at Calcutta, which, however, did not show that there was any fraud in connection with her recruitment. No further action was taken, as the parties did not apply for repatriation.

(30) The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum reported a case in which two women were said to have been improperly recruited. One of them was under no contract, and the other under a contract enforceable under section 492, Penal Code. The women were sent down to their native districts as witnesses, criminal proceedings having been instituted in connection with their recruitment.

(31) In a case enquired into at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Pratabgarh, no trace could be found of a boy said to have been enticed to Assam.

(32) A complaint of fraudulent recruitment made by a woman was still under investigation at the end of the year, the woman's native district and village not having been traced.

As regards the mode in which these cases came to be taken up, the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur writes as follows :

In three cases three coolies themselves complained to the Magistrate of wrongful recruitment.

In two cases four coolies complained, when arrested as deserters, of whom two coolies (husband and wife) were ordered to be repatriated at the expense of the garden ; but the husband having secured an appointment on the Railway, his wife elected to remain with him.

In two cases the contracts of two coolies were redeemed on payment.

Two coolie women complained of wrongful recruitment when brought to Court to give evidence in the case referred to above.

Twenty-eight coolies in twenty-six cases did not make any direct complaint to the Magistrate, but their cases were enquired into on complaints made by their relatives through the Magistrates of recruiting districts.

Out of 39 coolies, 22 executed contracts at Dhubri under Act I of 1882, 2 at Puruha, 6 in Calcutta, 2 at Dhubri under section 492, Indian Penal Code, 1 executed a contract under Act XIII of 1859, locally, and the execution of the contracts of 6 coolies cannot be ascertained, as there are no particulars in the records.

Statement of wrongful recruitment cases.

16. The preceding paragraph contains an account of all the cases in which complaints were made in regard to the recruitment of immigrants who actually reached the labour districts. The following table shows, in a convenient form, the number of cases brought to notice in 1893 and 1894, and the number in which the complaints were found true, found false, and not proved, respectively :

District.	Complaints.		True cases.		False cases.		Not proved.		Pending.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Sylhet	10	2	2	...	8	1	...	1	...	...
Kámrúp	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang	6	15	2	6	1	4	2	3	1	2
Nowgong	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Sibságar	15	25	2	4	8	13	4	4	1	4
Lakhimpur ...	23	32	7	5	9	13	4	12	3	2
Total	55	77	13	16	27	32	10	21	5	8

This statement shows that there was an increase in the number of complaints in regard to recruitment during the year, as compared with the results of the previous year. This increase was to be expected as the natural result of the increasing attention which is given to this branch of the subject and to the additional facilities which the amendment of the labour law made in 1893 provides for the investigation and disposal of such complaints. The number of complaints found true, however, was not much in excess of the number found true in 1893. As in the previous year, the large majority of the enquiries made were instituted on the complaints, not of the immigrants themselves, but of their relatives and others whom they had left behind in the recruiting districts. During 1894 the complaints made in respect of labourers recruited as free labourers and brought up to be placed under contract at Dhubri seemed to be more numerous than the complaints in respect of labourers placed under contract in the recruiting districts; but full particulars of the contracts have not been given in all cases. The Chief Commissioner will be glad if district officers will arrange to show clearly in future reports in respect of all coolies said to have been wrongfully recruited—(*a*) whether they were under any contract and, if so, under what kind of contract, *i.e.*, whether under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, or Act XIII of 1859, or section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, or civil contract; and (*b*) where the contract (if any) was executed, *i.e.*, whether in the recruiting districts, or at Dhubri, or in the actual labour district. These particulars should especially be furnished in respect of cases found by the officer investigating them to be true cases.

The Chief Commissioner observes that, in the Resolution of the Bengal Government on the Inland Emigration Report for 1894, the following remarks are made :—"Out of the whole number of licensed contractors' emigrants (3,237), only 106 were, according to their own statement, residents of the districts in which their registration was effected. This, as the Superintendent correctly remarks, shows how extremely difficult, if not impossible, it must be for the registering officer to obtain correct particulars regarding an emigrant's caste, previous history, and district of origin; it supports the view steadily taken by the Government that registration is not a remedy for complaints about enticement and wrongful recruitment, since it does not secure the identification of the emigrant." This is also the view which has been consistently taken by the Assam Administration since the special enquiries held in 1889. In reviewing the facts in connection with complaints regarding recruitment reported in 1893, the Officiating Chief Commissioner (Mr. Lyall) made the following remarks, which have Mr. Ward's entire concurrence :—"These results seem to show that the proposed system of initial registration, *i.e.*, registration *somewhere in the recruiting districts* (for, as was clearly shown during the recent discussion, it would not be practicable to enforce registration in the actual area of an emigrant's residence, or even in that of his recruitment), regarding which so much was said while the amendment of Act I of 1882 was under discussion, would have been of no practical efficacy in checking malpractices. As pointed out by the Government of India, the only classes of cases in which it is necessary to guard against malpractices, *i.e.*, cases of recruitment by fraud or misrepresentation, or by taking advantage of the temporary impulses or the desire of women and young people to leave their homes, are those against which initial registration would be no remedy at all; for the labourers, though under the influence of deception or enticement, would, at the time of registration, be themselves willing and anxious to emigrate."

It only remains to refer to the working of section 11A of the Act, which empowers the Administration to cancel the contracts of labourers found to have been improperly recruited. This provision was inserted in the law by Act VII of 1893 with the object of facilitating the prevention and remedying of abuses in recruitment. The Act of 1893, at the same time, conferred on local officers powers to repatriate to their own districts labourers and immigrants wrongfully recruited at the expense of the employer on whose behalf they were imported. The description of the cases reported during 1894 given in the preceding paragraph shows the extent to which these new provisions of the law have been made use of. It is the policy of this Administration to direct cancelment of the contract in any case in which there is any reasonable suspicion of fraud or other substantial irregularity to the prejudice of the labourer in recruitment. It is not necessary for cancelment of the contract that any criminal offence should have been committed in connection with the labourer's recruitment, nor is strict legal proof of the irregularity required. District officers should not hesitate to submit, for the Chief Commissioner's sanction, recommendations for cancelment of contract in any cases in which they consider that there is a reasonable suspicion of irregularity in recruitment, and that the irregularity is of such a nature as to make it just to the labourer that his contract should be cancelled.

CHAPTER II.

LABOUR FORCE.

Statistics of the labour force.

17. The following figures, taken from the statement which forms an Appendix to this Report, shows the additions to, and deductions from, the total labour force of the province during the year 1894 :

Labour force remaining at the end of 1893 (column 2 of statement appended to the Report)		478,276
ADDITIONS—		
Imported by contractors or garden sardars, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4, and 5 of statement)	46,530	
Local labour contracts entered into under sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement) ...	21,788	
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement) ...	7,104	
Deserters recaptured (column 9 of statement)	532	
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement) ...	28,092	
Otherwise obtained (column 11 of statement)	23,986	
Births	12,089	
Total	140,121	
DEDUCTIONS—		
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement) ...	5,785	
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement)	66,173	
Deaths (column 18 of statement)	15,805	
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	19,810	
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement)	14,693	
Contracts cancelled under sections 111, 140, or 177, Act I of 1882 (column 23 of statement)	69	
Contracts cancelled under section 122 (column 24 of statement) ...	1,023	
„ redeemed under section 142 („ 28 „) ...	6	
„ dissolved by mutual consent („ 29 „) ...	1,052	
Total	124,416	
Net increase during the year		15,705
Grand total at the close of the year		493,981

The total labour force at the end of 1894 was 3·3 per cent. in excess of the number at the end of the previous year.

Mean strength of the labour force.

18. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning of each of the last three years, and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1894 :

Class of labourers.	1st January 1892.	1st January 1893.	1st January 1894.	1st July 1894.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1894.	1st December 1894.	Mean strength for the second half-year of 1894.
Act adults	111,639	117,529	119,795	118,157	118,976	116,547	117,352
Non-Act ... Adults	158,146	172,497	179,343	199,346	189,347	192,372	195,859
Non-Act ... Children	167,518	171,219	179,133	185,041	182,087	185,062	185,051
Total	437,303	461,245	478,276	502,544	490,410	493,981	498,262

19. The total labour force of each district and the variations in strength during the year 1894 are given below:

District figures of the labour force.

District.	1st January 1894.	31st December 1894.	Percentage of total provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	106,819	107,464	21·8	+ 645	+ ·6
Sylhet	100,170	104,854	21·2	+ 4,684	+4·7
Total Surma Valley	206,989	212,318	43·0	+ 5,329	+2·5
Kámrúp	3,192	3,305	·7	+ 113	+3·5
Darrang	51,522	54,442	11·0	+ 2,920	+5·6
Nowgong	16,358	16,551	3·4	+ 193	+1·2
Sibságar	108,997	113,658	23·0	+ 4,661	+4·2
Lakhimpur	91,218	93,707	18·9	+ 2,489	+2·7
Total Assam Valley	271,287	281,663	57·0	+10,376	+3·8
Grand total	478,276	493,981	100·0	+15,705	+3·3

20. The following table shows the nationality and sex of the adult labour force during the last two years:

Nationality and sex of the adult labour force.

Nationality.	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal — Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Men ...	36,810	36,263	36,011	38,694	72,821	74,957	47·7
	Women ...	33,765	32,143	36,512	40,298	70,277	72,441	
Bengal — Behar	Men ...	5,087	4,935	6,992	7,321	12,079	12,256	7·5
	Women ...	3,846	3,895	6,416	6,873	10,262	10,768	
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa	Men ...	9,845	9,662	19,237	20,315	29,082	29,977	20·7
	Women ...	11,042	10,824	22,128	23,218	33,170	34,042	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	Men ...	5,189	4,586	20,508	21,012	25,697	25,598	16·0
	Women ...	4,156	3,885	19,458	19,915	23,614	23,800	
Central Provinces	Men ...	1,248	1,736	401	850	1,649	2,586	1·4
	Women ...	959	1,326	340	515	1,299	1,841	
Madras	Men ...	2,276	2,322	2,129	2,273	4,405	4,595	2·9
	Women ...	2,123	1,747	2,293	2,419	4,416	4,166	
Bombay	Men ...	4	8	33	34	37	42	...
	Women ...	3	4	16	18	19	22	
Nepal	Men ...	48	45	113	93	161	138	...
	Women ...	22	27	56	70	78	97	
Assam	Men ...	1,847	1,735	4,927	6,329	6,774	8,064	3·8
	Women ...	1,525	1,404	1,778	2,125	3,303	3,529	
Total	Men ...	62,354	61,292	90,351	96,921	152,705	158,213	...
	Women ...	57,441	55,255	88,997	95,451	146,438	150,706	...
Grand total	.....	119,795	116,547	179,348	192,372	299,143	308,919	...

N. B.—The differences between the entries in columns 3, 5, and 7, and those in columns 4, 6, and 8 of the statement embodied in paragraph 22 of the Report for 1893, are due to causes explained at foot of the statement at the end of this Report.

The proportion of labourers of each nationality continues almost exactly the same as in the previous year. The following figures show the number of labourers of each nationality who are employed in each of the two principal divisions into which the tea-districts of the province fall:

	Surma Valley.	Assam (Brahmaputra) Valley.
Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas	33,521	113,877
Behar	12,840	10,184
Bengal Proper and Orissa	34,755	29,264
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	40,274	9,124
Madras	5,108	3,653
Bombay	45	19
Nepal	73	162
Assam	350	11,243

The percentage of Act and non-Act and all adult labourers belonging to each nationality is shown below:

Nationality.	1893.	1894.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act labourers.	Total.
Bengal ... Chota Nagpur ...	47·8	58·7	41·1	47·7
Bengal ... Behar	7·5	7·6	7·4	7·5
Bengal ... Bengal Proper and Orissa...	20·9	17·6	22·6	20·7
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	16·6	7·3	21·3	16·0
Central Provinces	1·0	2·6	·7	1·4
Madras	2·9	3·5	2·5	2·9
Assam	3·3	2 7	4·4	3·8
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Mean strength of the labour force in each district.

21. The mean strength of the labour force for each half-year of 1894 and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertion are calculated on these figures:

District.	Act.			Non-Act.						Total annual strength.		
				Adults.			Children.					
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar	7,283	7,123	7,203	59,400	59,477	59,438	40,946	41,351	41,148	107,630	107,952	107,791
Sylhet	8,954	9,451	9,202	51,793	52,714	52,254	41,295	42,219	41,757	102,043	104,385	103,214
Kámrúp ..	781	729	755	1,445	1,544	1,495	1,117	1,127	1,122	3,344	3,400	3,372
Darrang ..	23,123	22,964	23,046	13,330	14,714	14,022	17,223	17,403	17,313	53,681	55,141	54,411
Nowgong ..	3,854	3,944	3,899	7,132	7,215	7,173	5,994	5,977	5,985	17,049	17,137	17,088
Sibságar ..	37,817	37,065	37,441	30,607	32,743	31,675	43,991	44,939	44,465	112,416	114,747	113,581
Lakhimpur ..	37,158	36,075	36,617	25,577	27,450	26,513	31,519	31,973	31,746	94,254	95,499	94,876
Total	118,976	117,352	118,164	189,347	195,859	192,603	182,087	185,051	183,569	490,410	498,262	494,336

There has been a very satisfactory increase in the labour force during the period for which Act I of 1882 has been in force. The average labour force has been as follows in each of the years named:—1882, 200,099; 1886, 301,349; 1890, 406,089; 1894, 494,336. Thus the labour force increases by about 100,000 in every four years. Paragraph 61 of this Report shows the rate at which the total average under tea cultivation (which may be taken approximately as a measure of the work required from the labour force) has increased in these years.

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

Number of contracts made.

22. The number of labour contracts under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, executed in 1894, is shown below and compared with the number executed in 1893:

—	1893.	1894.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Under section 111 of the Act in the actual labour districts ...	18,610	13,141	— 29·4
„ „ 112 „ „ „ „ ...	2,703	8,647	+ 219·9
At Dhubri	13,567	12,464	— 8·1
In the recruiting districts	12,837	14,807	+ 15·3
Total	47,717	49,059	+ 2·8

There has been a large increase in contracts under section 112 and decrease in contracts under section 111, the causes of which are dealt with in the next paragraph.

In addition to contracts under the Special Labour Act, contracts enforceable under Act XIII of 1859 (an Act to provide for the punishment of breaches of contract by artificers, workmen, and labourers in certain cases) and section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, are taken from labourers in this province. There are no statistics available to show the exact number of labourers on contracts enforceable under Act XIII of 1859, but the figures given in paragraph 111 of the Special Report submitted to the Government of India in 1890, show that the number of labourers on such contracts was then estimated to be between 60,000 and 70,000 in 1889; and the probability is that their number is somewhat larger than this at the present time. Contracts enforceable under section 492 of the Penal Code are, from the nature of the case, ordinarily executed in the recruiting district at the commencement of a labourer's journey to the labour district, or, at any rate, at some early stage of the journey. Deputy Commissioners have been asked to report in their annual reports the extent to which such contracts prevail in their districts. The information given in the district reports for 1894 on this point is very incomplete, and district officers will be asked to furnish fuller information in future. It appears, however, that such contracts are made use of to a very small extent, except in the Lakhimpur district; in this district certain gardens have recently taken to importing new coolies on contract enforceable under the Penal Code in preference to contracts under the Labour and Emigration Act.

23. The following table shows the number of local contracts executed under sections 111 and 112 of the Act, and the sex and nationality of the labourers entering into such contracts :

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality.									Total of columns 3 and 4.
				Chota Nagpur and Southal Parganas.	Behar.	Bengal Proper and Orissa.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Central Provinces.	Madras.	Bombay.	Nepal.	Assam.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	Men	90	397	116	88	40	220	23	...	...	...	...	487
	Women	73	479	86	98	78	272	18	...	...	...	...	552
	Total of 1894	163	876	202	186	118	492	41	...	...	...	...	1,039
	„ „ *1893*	*307*	*634*	*149*	*120*	*197*	*453*	*7*	*14*	...	...	*1*	*941*
Sylhet	Men	2,223	430	731	470	619	289	55	485	...	2	2	2,653
	Women	1,486	325	477	270	534	148	18	360	...	...	4	1,811
	Total of 1894	3,709	755	1,208	740	1,153	437	73	845	...	2	6	4,464
	„ „ *1893*	*3,622*	*375*	*1,262*	*747*	*1,096*	*293*	*69*	*524*	...	...	*1*	*3,997*
Kámrúp	Men	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
	Women	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total of 1894	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
	„ „ *1893*	...	*4*	...	...	...	*2*	...	...	...	...	*2*	*4*
Darrang	Men	1,829	834	1,353	100	230	124	11	116	...	2	727	2,663
	Women	1,303	341	845	74	210	99	...	77	...	3	329	1,637
	Total of 1894	3,125	1,175	2,198	174	440	223	11	193	...	5	1,056	4,300
	„ „ *1893*	*3,776*	*308*	*1,965*	*149*	*531*	*251*	*53*	*68*	...	*1*	*1,066*	*4,084*
Nowgong ...	Men	120	94	141	16	37	4	3	6	...	...	7	214
	Women	98	23	65	16	23	...	1	5	...	1	5	121
	Total of 1894	218	117	206	32	65	4	4	11	...	1	12	335
	„ „ *1893*	*242*	*39*	*106*	*15*	*79*	*2*	*2*	*6*	...	...	*11*	*281*
Sibságar	Men	1,729	2,107	2,325	317	469	185	9	51	...	...	450	3,836
	Women	1,461	2,052	2,311	271	489	170	9	68	...	...	165	3,513
	Total of 1894	3,190	4,159	4,666	618	958	355	18	119	...	...	615	7,349
	„ „ *1893*	*6,926*	*409*	*4,571*	*588*	*968*	*267*	*134*	*78*	*5*	*5*	*719*	*7,335*
Lakhimpur ...	Men	1,510	978	1,987	81	205	43	54	89	1	...	28	2,488
	Women	1,219	587	1,525	29	155	23	27	41	1	...	5	1,806
	Total of 1894	2,729	1,565	3,512	110	360	66	81	130	2	...	33	4,294
	„ „ *1893*	*3,737*	*934*	*3,870*	*112*	*471*	*64*	*34*	*73*	...	...	*57*	*4,671*
	Grand total of 1894 ...	13,141	8,647	11,992	1,860	3,094	1,577	223	1,298	2	8	1,729	21,788
	„ „ „ *1893* ...	*18,610*	*2,703*	*11,983*	*1,731*	*3,342*	*1,327*	*299*	*763*	*5*	*6*	*1,857*	*21,313*

There has thus been a general increase, common to all districts but Lakhimpur, in the number of local contracts under the Act executed during the year. The number of contracts executed under section 111 of the Act direct between employer and labourer fell off from 18,610 in 1893 to 13,141 in the year under report. This falling off is the natural consequence of the amendment made in the labour law by Act VII of 1893 by which such contracts can now only be executed for a maximum term of one year (instead of five years, as before). On the other hand, contracts executed under section 112 in the presence of a Government officer increased from 2,703 in the previous year to 8,647 ; such contracts can be executed for any term up to the maximum now recognised by the law, *viz.*, four years. On the whole, it will be seen that the increase in the number of local contracts is not large, but that a far larger proportion of them have been executed before a Magistrate or Inspector of Labourers. In Sylhet, there was a large increase in the total number of local contracts under sections 111 and 112 of the Act. The Deputy Commissioner attributes this partly to the competition for labour in consequence of the construction of the railway and to the consequent necessity which planters are under of protecting themselves against their labourers deserting to the railway works, and partly to large importations of new coolies by the South Sylhet Tea Company, a large proportion of whom are imported as free labourers, and placed under contracts under Act I of 1882 for three years after arrival in the labour district, the contracts being executed under section 112 of the Act in the presence of a Magistrate. Contracts executed under section 112 increased from 308 to 1,175

in Darrang ; the Deputy Commissioner writes that it is probably due, among other causes, to the fact that the opening of the Tezpur-Balipara Tramway has now brought a large number of gardens within easy communication with the Magistrate's office at Tezpur. In Lakhimpur the total number of local contracts fell off considerably ; no explanation of this decrease is given by the Deputy Commissioner, but the reason probably is, that in many cases contracts enforceable under Act XIII of 1859 have taken the place of direct contracts under section 111 of Act I of 1882.

It does not appear from the district reports that the change made in the law in 1893, under which the maximum term of direct contracts has been limited to one year, has had any unsatisfactory result from the employer's point of view. So far as new coolies are concerned, it is decidedly beneficial. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet writes (referring to newly-imported labourers)—"I should like to note that the new section 112 seems to me to work very well. It is largely used in South Sylhet. The necessity of executing the contract in the presence of a Magistrate ensures that the coolie shall be made aware of the nature of the agreement. On the other hand, the coolie by having to appear before the Magistrate is impressed with a sense of his obligations as imposed by the contract, and is therefore less likely to desert." As regards old labourers, the Chief Commissioner understands that arrangements are made, under which such of them as wish to enter into a contract for more than one year, can do so in the presence of the Magistrate or Inspector during his visit to the garden, and are thus saved the necessity of having to go to the district or subdivisional office. If this practice is followed in all districts, there is no reason why the new law should be productive of hardship either to employers or labourers.

Details of local contracts.

24. The following table gives details of local contracts executed in the actual labour districts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the periods of the contracts :

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.							
			Newly imported.	Time-expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	1	2	Under two and a half.	3	4	Under five.	5
Cachar	163	876	811	228	..	..	..	180	8	12	771	68†	..	..
Sylhet	3,709	755	743	3,404	..	317	..	3,710	66	7	662	19	..	..
Kámrúp	7	..	..	..	..	7	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	3,125	1,175	2	3,246	..	1,052	51	3,241	657	19	264	68	..	..
Nowgong	218	117	..	70	..	265	..	250	32	..	20	33	..	..
Sibságar	3,190	4,159	327	7,022*	..	..	228	3,593	2,669	..	790	69	..	..
Lakhimpur ..	2,729	1,565	79	4,186	..	29	..	2,790	953	..	191	360	..	..
Total of 1894 ..	13,141	8,647	1,962	18,156	..	1,670	279	13,771	4,385	38	2,698	617	..	..
,, *1893* ..	*18,625*	*2,703*	*3,731*	*16,336*	*114*	*1,147*	*312*	*10,952*	*3,674*	*139*	*5,380*	*497*	*71*	*29‡*

* This includes "local coolies" and "old Act coolies transferred," separate figures not having been furnished by the Deputy Commissioner.

† Includes 2 for three years eight months each.

The above statement has been modified in accordance with the instructions given in paragraph 26 of last year's Report. The heading "Newly imported" has been substituted for the heading "New," which was intrepreted in some districts to mean newly-imported coolies, and in others coolies, whether newly imported or not, who were new to the garden. The term "Local" was also differently interpreted in different districts, it being taken in some districts as including only indigenous coolies, and in others as including also settled immigrants. Under recent instructions, the term "newly imported" means "imported during the year under report," and the head "Local" includes immigrants other than those falling under the preceding heads. This statement calls for little comment, and, owing to the changes made and to the inability of the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar to distribute coolies among the last three heads, the figures regarding the classes of labourers giving local contracts cannot be compared with those reported in previous years. The Chief Commissioner observes that the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar is taking steps to procure the information which will enable him in future to show the classes of labourers under their proper heads.

As regards the period of the contract, there is a large increase in the proportion of coolies who gave agreements for not more than one year. This follows from the changes made in the law by Act VII of 1893, which are described in the last paragraph. No contracts are now allowed for terms exceeding four years.

Period of contracts executed at Dhubri.

25. The following figures show the periods of the contracts executed at Dhubri in 1893 and 1894 :

Year.	Three-year contracts.			Four-year contracts.			Five-year contracts.			Total contracts.		
	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.
1893	1,073	501	1,574	6,153	2,099	8,252	6,341	3,175	9,516	13,567	5,775	19,342
1894	593	231	824	11,871	4,753	16,624	...	...	...	12,464	4,984	17,448

There has been a considerable decrease in the proportion of contracts for three years, and the large majority of the contracts are for the maximum term now allowed by the law—four years. It is too early yet to form an opinion whether, and how far, the reduction of the maximum term of contract from five years to four made by the Act of 1893, has led or contributed to the decrease in the proportion of three-year contracts.

Verification of contracts.

26. The following table shows the extent to which local contracts executed direct between employer and labourer were verified by the Magistrate or Inspector during 1894 :

District.	Number of contracts under section 111.			Number verified.	Number not verified on account of					Percentage of contracts verified	
	Remaining unverified at close of previous year.	Executed during the year.	Total.		Expiry of contracts.	Death or desertion of labourer.	Sickness of the labourer.	Other causes.	Total.	(a) on total number of contracts.	(b) on contracts capable of verification.
Cachar	90	163	253	73	4	43	...	133	180	28·8	36·3
Sylhet	1,488	3,709	5,197	3,696	407	123	63	908	1,501	71·1	100·0
Kámrúp	...	7	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	100·0	100·0
Darrang	1,191	3,125	4,316	2,937	47	59	47	1,226	1,379	68·0	100·0
Nowgong	68	218	286	230	2	3	...	51	56	80·4	100·0
Sibságar	1,631	3,014	4,645	3,702	394	62	12	475	943	79·6	99·6
Lakhimpur	1,693	2,729	4,422	3,152	502	9	15	744	1,270	71·2	100·0
Total	6,161	12,965	19,126	13,797	1,356	299	137	3,537	5,329	72·1	98·9

These figures (if they can be relied upon) are satisfactory, except in the Cachar district. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar explains, however, that the bulk of the unverified contracts (125 out of 133) were executed after the garden had been inspected. The Chief Commissioner notices that, as in the previous year, a very large number of contracts are put down as not verified, owing to "Other causes." Care should be taken to exclude from this column all contracts remaining unverified, unless it is quite clear that the employer was unable, through no fault of his own, to produce the labourer before the inspecting officer. To make this clear for the future, the main heading of the column will be altered from "Number not verified on account of" to "Number not capable of verification on account of".

27. The following table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such expiries reported by managers, and the number of contracts which were cancelled or determined during the year under the different sections of the Act:

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

District.	Number shown in garden return as time-expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled under section 11A.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111A.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111B.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, section 120.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 139.	Number cancelled by Magistrate under section 140.	Number cancelled by Magistrate under section 140A.	Number redeemed under section 142.	Number dissolve by mutual consent.
Cachar	1,426	1,056	...	41	...	...	110	...	...	...	1	32
Sylhet	3,956	3,956	...	6	...	...	75	...	...	...	...	11
Kámrúp ...	138	138	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	10
Darrang ...	7,171	7,171	6	3	...	...	129	...	...	...	1	44
Nowgong ...	937	849	...	...	...	...	82	...	...	...	...	4
Sibságar ...	12,079	12,981	7	...	...	...	160	...	...	6	2	902
Lakhimpur ...	9,992	9,876	1	...	...	...	457	...	...	...	2	49
Total of 1894 ...	35,699	36,027	14	50	...	...	1,023	...	...	6	6	1,052
„ *1893* ...	*31,031*	*30,479*	...	*61*	*10*	...	*1,305*	...	*15*	*1*	*13*	*664*

Section 141.—*Notice of expiration of contracts.*—The results are satisfactory, nearly all the contracts which expired having been duly reported. The largest proportion of unreported expiries were in Cachar and Nowgong. The Deputy Commissioners of these districts should see that the law is complied with by managers.

Section 11*A*.—*Cancelment of contracts for irregularities in recruitment.*—This subject has been dealt with in paragraphs 15 and 16 of this Report.

Sections 111*A and* 111*B*.—*Cancelment of local contracts.*—It is satisfactory that only fifty contracts as against several thousands verified were cancelled during the year. Of the total cancelments, 41 were in the Cachar district. This is a large number for one district. The Deputy Commissioner should have explained the causes for which these contracts were cancelled.

Section 122.—*Cancelment of contracts for physical incapacity.*—The following table shows the number of contracts cancelled during 1893 and 1894, owing to the labourers becoming permanently incapacitated from carrying them out:

District.	Contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act.	
	1893.	1894.
Cachar	40	110
Sylhet	50	75
Kámrúp	4	10
Darrang	222	129
Nowgong	137	82
Sibságar	201	160
Lakhimpur	651	457
Total	1,305	1,023

The number of cancelments in Lakhimpur, though still large, is considerably less than in the previous two years. It would appear from the Deputy Commissioner's report (though this is not definitely stated) that most of the labourers concerned were new importations; and the Deputy Commissioner states that only 16 of them were coolies recruited through garden sardárs, and the rest coolies recruited through contractors. Three hundred and thirty-nine of the labourers whose contracts were cancelled in this district were repatriated at the expense of their employers, and the rest remained on the garden.

Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.—The number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent has been as follows in each of the last two years :

District.	Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.	
	1893.	1894.
Cachar	5	32
Sylhet	...	11
Kámrúp	1	10
Darrang	47	44
Nowgong	15	4
Sibságar	570	902
Lakhimpur	26	49
Total	664	1,052

The number of contracts dissolved has been very large in the Sibságar district during these two years. In paragraph 29 of the Provincial Report for 1893, it was said that "possibly the change made in the local contract system by the new law, limiting direct contracts under section 111 to one year, may account for the increase, temporary contracts having been entered into under section 111 on the garden, and converted into permanent contracts under section 112 when a convenient opportunity occurred of appearing before the Magistrate." The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar writes as follows with reference to the contracts dissolved in 1894 :

Of the 902 contracts dissolved by mutual consent, it is reported by the managers that 9 only were dissolved with a view to termination of the labour agreement, and in these cases the labourers have returned to their country. In the remaining cases, it is said, the contracts were dissolved with a view to renewal. The large increase in the number of contracts dissolved with this object may, I think, be attributed to the cause mentioned in paragraph 29 of the Provincial Report for 1893.

Section 142.—*Redemption of contracts.*—It is very satisfactory that only six contracts were redeemed during the year. Considering that many thousands of contracts can be redeemed for the payment of a few rupees, it is a satisfactory test of the good relations between employers and labourers that the number of contracts redeemed each year by labourers is so small.

Extent to which section 170 and second paragraph of section 121 are made use of.

28. The district reports show that, as usual, employers made very little use of the provisions of sections 121 and 170 of the Act, to procure extensions of labourers' labour contracts on account of the labourers' absence from work owing to sickness or other causes.

Repatriation of labourers.

29. The following table gives certain particulars regarding the repatriation, during the past two years, of labourers whose contracts were determined under section 122 :

District.	Number of contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity, under section 122.		Number of coolies repatriated.		Number of coolies who will be repatriated when a sardar is available to accompany them.		Number of coolies who preferred to remain on the garden or in the district.		Number of coolies who died.		Number of coolies who absconded.		Number of coolies sent to the lunatic asylum.		Amount paid by Government over and above the three months' wages paid by employers.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
															Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	40	110	24	44	..	..	16	66	..	..	..	..	..	..	37 0 6	..
Sylhet	50	75	42	45	..	..	8	23	..	1	..	1	..	..	219 7 6	..
Kámrúp	4	10	2	2	..	..	2	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 2 0	..
Darrang	222	129	143	9[illegible]	..	..	52	27	14	7	13	5	..	..	..	..
Nowgong	137	82	127	33	..	..	9	10	1	17	..	17	..	..	95 4 0	10 0 0
Sibságar	291	160	173	108	..	..	40	51	6	..	1	1	1	..	437 12 3	260 8 6*
Lakhimpur	651	457	375	339	..	..	276	112	..	4	..	2	..	..	290 3 0	..
Total	1,395	1,023	866	666	..	..	403	302	21	29	14	26	1	..	1,084 13 3	270 8 6

* Paid from the Inland Labour Transport Fund.

It is not clear whether the amount of Rs. 10 shown against Nowgong was paid from Government funds or from the Inland Labour Transport Fund. In future, payments made from the Transport Fund should be excluded from the last column of this statement. The cases in which payment will be made from Government funds should in future be extremely rare, as the new Act has now empowered officers to realise full cost of repatriation from employers, or to charge it to the Inland Labour Transport Fund.

Wages.

30. The following tables give some idea of the actual amount of wages drawn from the tea-gardens by Act and non-Act labourers, distinguishing the sexes, and by children. The figures are based on the enquiries made by officers inspecting the gardens. In each case, the inspecting officer is required to ascertain the wages paid during the month preceding that in which the inspection is held; and the average results of these enquiries may be taken as giving a fair idea of the actual money payments in the way of wages. The table which follows shows the average wages for the whole year, as thus ascertained, in each subdivision of the labour districts :

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar, Sadr	Act	Men	4 1 7
		Women	2 13 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 9 1
		Women	3 5 1
		Children	2 11 4
Hailákándi.	Act	Men	4 12 8
		Women	2 5 11
	Non-Act	Men	4 8 3
		Women	3 9 6
		Children	2 4 1
North Sylhet	Act	Men	4 1 10
		Women	2 15 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 6 6
		Women	3 1 1
		Children	1 13 6
South Sylhet	Act	Men	4 1 0
		Women	3 6 5
	Non-Act	Men	4 15 10
		Women	3 9 4
		Children	2 0 11
Karimganj	Act	Men	4 5 8
		Women	3 7 11
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 5
		Women	3 6 3
		Children	2 1 9
Habiganj	Act	Men	4 9 7
		Women	3 9 9
	Non-Act	Men	4 14 5
		Women	4 0 1
		Children	2 1 9
Kámrúp	Act	Men	5 1 6
		Women	3 7 4
	Non-Act	Men	5 6 2
		Women	4 4 8
		Children	2 7 2
Darrang, Sadr	Act	Men	4 10 8
		Women	4 2 8
	Non-Act	Men	6 3 1
		Women	3 9 10
		Children	2 5 2
Mangaldai	Act	Men	4 3 11
		Women	3 13 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 11 0
		Women	3 4 8
		Children	2 1 5
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 11 10
		Women	4 1 2
	Non-Act	Men	5 11 8
		Women	4 12 7
		Children	2 15 7

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Sibságar Sadr	Act	Men	5 2 0
		Women	3 14 11
	Non-Act	Men	6 4 4
		Women	3 11 5
		Children	2 5 11
Jorhát	Act	Men	5 0 3
		Women	3 11 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 13 7
		Women	3 6 1
		Children	2 10 9
Golághát	Act	Men	3 14 1
		Women	3 3 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 9 11
		Women	3 6 10
		Children	2 2 1
Lakhimpur Sadr	Act	Men	5 1 8
		Women	4 0 3
	Non-Act	Men	6 13 3
		Women	4 11 1
		Children	3 2 5
North Lakhimpur	Act	Men	5 4 5
		Women	3 13 0
	Non-Act	Men	6 4 5
		Women	4 4 7
		Children	2 5 4

The table below shows separately the average wages paid to coolies during the manufacturing and non-manufacturing season respectively. The wages in the manufacturing season are, as a general rule, higher, as more *ticca* or extra work is done then :

			Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar, Sadr	Act	Men	3 12 10	4 13 3
		Women	3 8 8	3 5 1
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 2	4 8 9
		Women	3 9 1	4 4 11
		Children	1 9 3	2 5 4
Hailákándi	Act	Men	3 6 11	3 7 10
		Women	2 11 4	3 1 1
	Non-Act	Men	3 10 10	4 2 0
		Women	2 7 4	4 3 7
		Children	1 10 3	2 2 6
North Sylhet	Act	Men	4 2 11	4 1 3
		Women	3 0 6	2 14 4
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 1	4 6 2
		Women	3 0 6	3 11 3
		Children	1 11 4	2 0 4
South „	Act	Men	3 10 9	4 8 4
		Women	3 4 8	3 8 6
	Non-Act	Men	5 4 7	4 10 3
		Women	3 9 4	3 9 3
		Children	1 15 4	2 2 9
Karimganj	Act	Men	...*	4 5 8
		Women	...	3 7 11
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 4	4 10 8
		Women	3 7 6	3 6 10
		Children	2 6 6	2 4 3
Habiganj	Act	Men	4 15 0	4 6 2
		Women	3 12 0	3 2 1
	Non-Act	Men	5 0 6	4 6 6
		Women	3 15 1	3 10 3
		Children	2 3 9	2 12 0
Kámrúp	Act	Men	4 13 11	5 7 4
		Women	3 7 1	3 7 10
	Non-Act	Men	5 1 4	6 0 4
		Women	4 9 1	3 11 5
		Children	2 8 6	2 9 8

* Not given.

			Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy-season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Darrang, Sadr	Act	Men	4 7 0	4 14 3
		Women	3 9 1	5 0 7
	Non-Act	Men	6 1 1	6 15 1
		Women	3 0 0	4 3 8
		Children	2 1 0	2 9 5
Mangaldai	Act	Men	4 1 9	4 13 11
		Women	3 11 0	4 3 8
	Non-Act	Men	5 3 0	4 15 11
		Women	3 3 0	3 13 0
		Children	1 14 0	2 1 7
Nowgong	Act	Men	4 4 1	5 3 7
		Women	3 8 10	4 9 6
	Non-Act	Men	5 2 3	6 5 2
		Women	4 5 2	5 4 1
		Children	2 11 1	3 4 2
Sibságar, Sadr	Act	Men	3 14 4	5 5 9
		Women	4 11 7	4 2 4
	Non-Act	Men	5 10 0	6 14 9
		Women	3 7 2	3 15 9
		Children	2 5 9	2 6 1
Jorhát	Act	Men	4 15 6	6 1 0
		Women	3 10 1	3 13 2
	Non-Act	Men	4 2 2	5 9 1
		Women	3 3 5	3 8 9
		Children	2 13 4	2 8 3
Golághát	Act	Men	3 14 0	3 14 3
		Women	3 1 0	3 6 3
	Non-Act	Men	4 4 7	4 15 3
		Women	3 4 5	3 9 4
		Children	1 15 11	2 4 4
Lakhimpur, Sadr	Act	Men	4 14 6	5 4 11
		Women	3 9 8	4 5 11
	Non-Act	Men	6 4 1	6 7 5
		Women	4 6 10	5 0 4
		Children	2 14 6	3 7 5
North Lakhimpur	Act	Men	4 8 8	5 8 2
		Women	3 8 3	3 14 7
	Non-Act	Men	5 12 5	6 12 6
		Women	4 10 10	3 14 7
		Children	2 5 6	2 5 3

Wages and other earnings of labourers.

31. In last year's report, the Officiating Chief Commissioner (Mr. C. J. Lyall) directed that wages should be separately shown in future for each subdivision instead of for each district, as had been the practice in the case of some districts previously. He also desired that the figures should be accompanied by a short account as regards each subdivision (1) of the state of the food-supply and prices of food-grains and other necessaries required by coolies, (2) and of the extent to which collateral means of livelihood other than garden work are available to, or followed by, coolies.

It will be a sufficient comment on the statements given in the last paragraph to reproduce the remarks of Deputy Commissioners of tea-districts.

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar (Mr. Clark) writes as follows:

The figures in these three statements (Nos. 23, 24, and 25) give the following results:—Take, first, coolies under the Act, who are entitled to get from their employers rice at Rs. 3 per maund, and suppose the average coolie's family to consist of 5 persons, a man, his wife, and 3 children, of whom one is a wage-earning child. The combined average earnings of such a family, according to statement 24, are Rs. 9-10-6. Their expenditure on rice, allowing 10 chhataks per adult per diem and 8 chhataks per child in a month of 30 days, would be Rs. 5-2-6, leaving Rs. 4-8-0 for the purchase of oil, *dal*, salt, and other sundries. Firewood costs them nothing, and their expenditure on clothes is certainly covered by the odd 8 annas per month, while they probably grow or gather in the jungle all their *tarkari*. Thus even Act-I coolies will probably be able to lay something by. In the case of non-Act labourers, the family earnings are Re. 1-1-0 more, so that so long as rice does not average more than Rs. 3-10-0 per maund throughout the year, they can also save.

But in addition to their pay, the bulk of the coolies, other than quite new people, on a garden have some supplementary means of subsistence. I cannot at present call to mind any garden in Cachar where there is not some paddy grown by the coolies, and in many the area is considerable. On many gardens, also, sugarcane is grown, but this requires a certain amount of capital, as a mill to crush the cane must either be bought or hired. In some cases, also, they can add very considerably to

their income by selling milk ; indeed, I know of a case where the manager of a garden near Silchar turned out a considerable number of old coolies, because they absolutely did no work in the garden, and had such a number of cattle as to cause considerable damage to the tea. Their only reason for remaining on the garden was that they could get better grazing ground for their cattle. On some gardens, again, most of the leaf baskets are made by coolies in their spare time, and there are always odds and ends to be picked up on leave days or at odd times, such as a few fish. Perhaps if the husband be of a sporting disposition, as most of the jungly coolies are, there is a deer or pig to be shot, or in the season the *basti-wallah's dhan* to be cut. On the whole, I think, coolies in this district, if they are of the right stamp and settle down, are tolerably comfortable ; though just at first, and more especially so in the case of people from the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and Behar, there is doubtless a certain amount of pinching and hardship.

The Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet (Mr. Henniker) reports :

As regards the state of the food-supply and prices of grains and collateral means of support, I quote below extracts from the various subdivisional reports :

South Sylhet.—" As regards the state of the food-grains supply, that is to say, for the most part rice, it was fairly plentiful during 1894, and much cheaper than in 1893. Most of the gardens I inspected had stocks of rice ready for supply. I know, however, of many gardens that got in a larger stock of rice than they required, and the coolies refused to buy it, being able to get better local rice at the same or a lower price.

" There are various ways in which coolies may add to their wages by extraneous means of support. I subjoin a few of those that I have come across in my inspections of gardens in this subdivision.

" (1) First should be mentioned the keeping of cows and trading in the milk. Nearly every garden has a large herd of cows belonging to the coolies. The garden generally provides a herdsman and grazing ground for them. This is a general means of support of which any thrifty coolie may avail himself.

" (2) *Keeping bullocks and sometimes also bullock carts.*—This prevails on many old established gardens. The garden hires these bullocks (at good rates) for the conveyance of tea to the shipping station, or of firewood from the forest to the factory. Some gardens have a large number of bullock owners. Buffaloes are also used for a similar purpose, but they also fall under head No. (1).

" (3) *Agriculture and gardening.*—On some gardens, though not, I fear, very many, the coolies cultivate rice crops. I always regard such a practice as worthy of every encouragement. Besides being a means of support to the coolie, it makes him feel more settled, and he is less likely to desert. Moreover, in many cases the cultivation involves the cleaning of unhealthy swampy pieces of land in and about the lines, and, therefore, removes an obvious source of unhealthiness. In addition to rice, I have seen wheat, maize, sugarcane, and numerous varieties of vegetables growing in the coolies' gardens.

" (4) Hunting wild beasts is sometimes a source of profit. Some classes of coolies will go out and kill a wild pig, or deer, and sell the flesh in the lines for food. There are usually a certain number of (say) *chamars* on a garden who will eat the flesh of wild pig. A considerable sum may thus be realised over one pig or deer."

Habiganj.—" Coolies in this subdivision are so much accustomed to local rice that when managers imported rice to give to them, they refused to take the same at reduced rate, and preferred to buy at local market. When prices rose up, the coolies no doubt suffered from it. A large number of coolies of Amu and Laskarpur grow rice, and several coolies in the gardens supplement their income by selling milk."

Karimganj.—" The coolies have, besides, other means of procuring money in tending cattle, cultivating sugarcane, paddy, &c The price of food-grains has been moderately low throughout the year, except at the beginning."

North Sylhet.—The coolies in this subdivision buy their rice and other necessaries of life in the local markets.

Those of tea-gardens near the station get their supply from Kazir Bazar. They also tend cattle and sell milk.

Mr. McCabe, Deputy Commissioner of Kámrúp, writes :

Besides the garden work, the coolies have other means of livelihood, such as tending of cattle, selling of milk, and rearing of pigs, goats, and poultry. In some gardens the coolies engage in paddy cultivation.

The state of the food-supply to the gardens in the Kámrúp district was satisfactory, and food was easily available at the *háts*. The price of rice during the year was moderate, the price per maund being between Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 4 throughout the year.

Mr. Arbuthnott, Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, writes :

The wages shown above do not represent the total expenditure incurred by employers on behalf of their labour force ; they are exclusive of house accommodation, water-supply, diet or subsistence allowance on account of sickness, and loss on rice supplied at the contract rate. In many gardens some coolies grow paddy, and possess live stock, poultry, cattle, and carts.

In the Mangaldai subdivision the coolies get their supplies cheaper than in the sadr. In Tezpur, most old coolies purchase paddy from villages instead of rice.

Mr. MacBlaine, Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong, remarks :

The wages shown in the above tables do not, as a rule, include the expenditure incurred by garden authorities on behalf of their labour force on account of house accommodation, water-supply,

sanitary arrangements, medical treatment, and hospital diet for sick coolies. Almost all the old Act and non-Act coolies have various collateral sources of livelihood apart from wages, such as the cultivation of paddy and other crops. They own cattle, carts, and sometimes let them out for hire, sell milk and vegetables. They, thus, reduce the number of working days spent in garden work, and consequently the wages earned by them on the garden are sometimes below the contract rate. Rice is supplied to the coolies at all times at the contract rate of Rs. 3 per maund ; sometimes they purchase rice and other food-grains and vegetables available at the *háts* situated within and near the garden. The rice which is used by coolies is sometimes available at 4 or 5 annas per *don*, a measure of 5 seers, *matikalai* and potatoes from 4 to 5 pice per seer. Coolies mostly get their rice from the garden at contract rates in the rains when prices of food-grains rule high.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar (Mr. Monahan) has made the following remarks :

As a rule, the gardens in the Jorhát subdivision and the western portion of the sadr subdivision are not under the necessity of importing rice for their Act labourers, as the latter prefer to buy *dhán* from the neighbouring cultivators, and husk it themselves. This they can usually do at less cost than the statutory price at which rice has to be supplied, *viz.*, Rs. 3 a maund. I think, however, that in the second half-year of 1894, every garden in the district has had to import rice. So far as my information extends, there has been nothing special to notice about the price of other necessaries required by coolies. On nearly all the gardens in the district some of the labourers have collateral means of livelihood other than garden work. They raise vegetables for sale in the gardens attached to the lines, rear pigs, goats, and poultry for sale, keep cows, and sell the milk. Some in their spare time do ploughing and other agricultural work for Assamese cultivators at good wages ; others cultivate their own crops either on land included in the tea-estate and let to them rent free or at a low rate, or on ordinary *patta* land. Some old coolies, who have accumulated savings, even own carts and cart bullocks, which they let out for hire at profitable rates, or lend out money at interest. As a general rule, however, these occupations, or, at any rate, the more profitable of them, are confined to coolies who have been a year or two on the garden, during which time, if they keep good health and are industrious, they may be able to acquire the small capital necessary. Most of the new coolies have little or nothing to live on besides the bare wages they receive. Bearing in mind the fact that the wages they earn are usually below the average, I think it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that coolies for some time after they arrive must find it difficult to subsist. It seems to me probable that the lowness of average wages is at the bottom of most of the other drawbacks found in working the Act. The main cause of the high rate of mortality among Act coolies is generally said to be the importation of weakly and unsuitable coolies. I do not think it can fail to strike any one who looks at a number of batches of newly arrived coolies, that most of them are not average specimens of the labouring classes of India, but people of inferior physique and constitution, who, having failed to make a living in their own country, emigrate to Assam as a last resource. That a better class of labour is not attracted to the tea industry in Assam, is, I think, due to the fact that wages offered are too low. These wages are sometimes compared with the rates which prevail in the native districts of the coolies imported ; but that is hardly a fair comparison. I think they should be compared with the wages earned in other districts of India to which labourers emigrate for employment. The natives of Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, of Behar and the North-Western Provinces emigrate to Lower Bengal for employment in coal mines, in jute mills, and other factories, for field labour, and work on roads. I think on enquiry it would be found that the average wages of adult labourers in those employments are certainly not less than the Act rate of Rs. 5 a month. It would seem to follow that considerably higher wages should be required to induce coolies to emigrate to such a distant country as Assam under a penal contract. It is true that employers incur additional expenditure on behalf of their Act labourers on account of house accommodation, sanitary and medical arrangements, &c. It is also true that the labour task by which the statutory wage is earned, is generally light, and an able-bodied labourer can earn considerably more by doing *ticca* work. But these considerations do not operate as an inducement to the intending emigrant. He looks only to the rate of monthly wage offered, Rs. 5 a month, which he naturally understands to be for a full task. I am not aware whether the advisability of raising the minimum contract wage has ever been considered. Perhaps it is not a matter for legislation. It is not unlikely that employers would find a distinct economy in offering a higher rate of wages to attract a better class of labourers. Not to mention the loss which they incur through mortality among coolies, they might effect a saving of the expense involved in medical treatment and subsistence of sickly labourers and in light tasks imposed on new coolies, because they are not able to do full work. It is, at any rate, obviously undesirable that a class of people should be imported into the province who emigrate chiefly because they are incapable of earning a decent livelihood in their own country.

Mr. Greenshields, Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, writes :

Besides the wages earned by the coolies on the gardens of both sadr and North Lakhimpur subdivisions, they have various collateral sources of livelihood, such as the cultivation of paddy and other crops, the rearing of live stock and poultry, the hiring out of cattle, and keeping of carts.

The average rate of wages earned by the coolies is thus reduced by voluntary absence from garden work.

Rice is supplied to the coolies both at sadr and North Lakhimpur subdivisions at the rate of Rs. 3 per maund; and other necessary provisions, such as *dal*, vegetables, fish, &c., are procurable at adjacent *háts* and Kaiya shops established on gardens, at reasonable rates.

The Chief Commissioner thinks it unnecessary to add anything to the above remarks ; but he would commend the remarks and suggestions of the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar to the consideration of employers and persons interested in the tea industry.

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES, INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

Offences committed by tea-garden population under Act I of 1882 and Act XIII of 1859.

32. The following table shows the offences which were committed by the tea-garden population, and for which convictions were obtained, for the past two years—(1) under Act XIII of 1859, and (2) under Act I of 1882, excluding the offence of desertion, which is separately dealt with in paragraph 35 below :

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882.																					
			Section 151, garden sardár failing to report himself.		Section 153, garden sardár failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way bills.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employers arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183, enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.		Total.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar ..	27	66	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	1	..	5	6
Sylhet ..	20	42	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	..	..	5	7
Kámrúp ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Darrang ..	12	11	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	..	..	44	24
Nowgong ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	9	4
Sibságar ..	62	68	13	15	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	18	20	..	1	..	..	1	1	13	8	8	..	53	57
Lakhimpur ..	14	27	3	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	27	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	13	..	..	17	56
Total ..	135	214	21	39	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	66	64	1	1	..	..	2	1	33	49	9	..	134	155

There has been a large increase in the number of convictions under Act XIII of 1859 in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, and Lakhimpur. This result, so far as the Surma Valley (Cachar and Sylhet) is concerned, is probably due to labourers under contracts enforceable under Act XIII of 1859 deserting for work on the Assam-Bengal Railway. There has also been an increase in the total number of convictions under Act I of 1882; but the heads under which there has been the largest increase, are convictions under sections 183 and 151. The former section refers to offences committed by, or on behalf of, employers, and the latter to offences by garden sardárs sent down to the recruiting districts to recruit on behalf of the employers. The offences committed by ordinary coolies, *viz.*, those shown under sections 171 and 178, decreased slightly, from 68 to 65.

Punishments under Act XIII of 1859.

33. The following table shows the punishments inflicted for offences under Act XIII of 1859 during each of the past two years :

District.	Number of coolies convicted.		Number of coolies who were ordered to perform their contracts.		Number punished with imprisonment for										Cases withdrawn.		Number of coolies ordered to pay their advances or pay compensation.	
					One week.		Eleven days.		Two weeks.		Twenty days.		One month (or more).					
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	27	66*	26	42	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	4	..	2
Sylhet	20	42	20	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	..
Kámrúp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	12	11	12	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibságar	62	68	41	54	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	1	12	2	15	12
Lakhimpur	14	27	14	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	135	214	113	172	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	7	13	12	8	15	14

* This includes 12 persons who were punished with fine, *i.e.*, refund of advance.

As usual, the number of cases in which labourers were sentenced to imprisonment under Act XIII of 1859, is very small. If the total number of labourers under contracts enforceable under this Act is estimated at between 70,000 and 80,000, the proportion of labourers sentenced to imprisonment is not much more than 2 to every 10,000 labourers under such contracts.

34. The following table shows offences against the Penal Code and other laws (excluding Act I of 1882 and Act XIII of 1859) committed by tea-garden coolies during the last two years :

Offences committed by the tea-garden population against the general criminal law.

Penal Code.

District.	Adultery.	Unlawful assembly and affray.	Rioting.	Culpable homicide or attempt to commit culpable homicide.	Murder.	Attempt to commit suicide.	Assault.	Causing hurt.	Grievous hurt.	Theft.	Criminal trespass.	Lurking house trespass.	House trespass.	House-breaking.	Dishonest misappropriation.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property.	Criminal intimidation.	Cheating.	Mischief.	Criminal misappropriation.	Criminal breach of trust.	Lying false complaint.	Giving false evidence.	Counterfeit coin.	Kidnapping.	Insult.		
Cachar	1	5	7	...	...	...	3	...	1	8	...	...	1	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Sylhet	...	14	22	...	...	...	3	5	...	22	1	...	...	1	...	7	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	2	14	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	...	...	5	...	...	1	2	2	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sibságar	...	15	39	...	1	...	10	7	4	52	5	32	1	4	...	16	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lakhimpur	...	7	5	...	...	3	21	12	2	42	...	1	19	...	4	15	...	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	3	...
Total of 1894	...	42	78	...	1	4	45	26	11	143	6	35	23	6	4	45	3	4	3	...	4	1	1	1	...	3	...
„ 1893	...	50	56	4	6	7	40	48	30	152	10	20	10	8	5	44	1	2	16	4	7	1	1	5	...	4	...

District.	Penal Code—*continued.*																				Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
	Wrongful confinement.	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	False charge of offence with intent to injure.	False prosecution.	Defamation (section 500).	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Enticing away a married woman.	Not obeying a legal order to attend to a certain place in person.	Rape.	Resistance to lawful apprehension.	Exposure of infants.	Enticement.	Obstructing tax-collector.	Criminal force to public servant.	Misconduct in public by drunken person.	Delivery of coins not genuine.	Attempting to commit offence.	False information.	Total.			
Cachar	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	2	4	40
Sylhet	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	4	16	101
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
Darrang	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	..	30
Nowgong	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	24
Sibságar	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	200	6	26	232
Lakhimpur	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	146	5	82	233
Total of 1894	6	...	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	3	518	17	128	663
„ *1893*	*7*	*4*	*4*	...	*1*	...	...	...	*1*	...	...	*3*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*2*	*2*	*2*	*1*	*1*	*563*	*32*	*136*	*731*

These figures show that there has been a satisfactory decrease in convictions of tea-garden coolies during the year for offences against the general law. As explained in last year's report, if convictions under Act XIII of 1859 and Act I of 1882 are excluded, the proportion of tea-garden coolies convicted in the Criminal Courts to the total tea-garden population, is much lower than the proportion which the total number of persons convicted in Assam bears to the total population of the province.

The following table, which includes all convictions of tea-garden coolies, whether under the general law or Act I of 1882, including convictions for desertion, or Act XIII of 1859, compares the proportion of convictions and of sentences of imprisonment to the adult tea-garden population during each of the last two years :

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per cent. of imprisonments to convictions.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar ...	66,470	66,641	204	165	164	104	80	63
Sylhet ...	60,271	61,456	223	195	121	109	54	55
Kámrúp ...	2,262	2,250	35	5	29	5	82	100
Darrang ...	36,448	37,068	232	180	157	132	67	73
Nowgong ...	11,047	11,102	81	79	56	72	69	91
Sibságar ...	66,299	69,116	592	638	362	469	61	73
Lakhimpur ...	59,757	63,130	548	523	427	333	77	64
Total ...	302,558	310,767	1,915	1,785	1,316	1,227	68	68

Provincial and district figures for desertion.

35. The following table shows the number of desertions reported among the adult tea-garden population, district by district, for the past two years :

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non-Act.		Percentage of desertions on strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	3,726	4,128	1,154	1,023	2,572	3,105	14·49	14·21	4·30	5·21	5·60	6·19
Sylhet	4,808	5,453	908	980	3,900	4,473	11·52	10·73	7·43	8·56	7·97	8·88
Kámrúp	303	186	127	52	176	134	14·37	6·98	12·61	8·95	13·35	8·25
Darrang	1,644	1,462	1,108	877	536	585	4·57	3·80	4·38	4·22	4·51	3·95
Nowgong	485	510	269	281	216	229	6·39	7·20	3·16	3·17	4·39	4·59
Sibságar	2,148	2,230	1,152	1,225	996	1,005	2·89	3·27	3·82	3·17	3·24	3·22
Lakhimpur	2,021	2,136	1,455	1,195	566	941	3·91	3·25	2·50	3·53	3·38	3·38
Total	15,135	16,105	6,173	5,633	8,962	10,472	5·05	4·76	4·96	5·44	5·00	5·18

This statement is compiled from returns furnished by employers of labour. There has been a satisfactory decrease in the number of deserters under Act contracts. Desertions among non-Act coolies have increased considerably. Allowance must be made for the fact that many of the non-Act coolies returned as deserters by their employers were probably not deserters, properly so-called, but have been classed as deserters for having left the garden without permission; but, as compared with the previous year, the number who deserted or left the garden without permission is very large. It is probable that a large proportion of them left their gardens to find work on the Assam-Bengal Railway. In accepting this explanation, the Chief Commissioner wishes it to be clearly understood that, in his opinion, no fault can be attributed to the Railway authorities or contractors. On the contrary, he believes that all due precautions are

taken against the employment on the Railway of deserters from other employers, and that the Railway officers are always ready to meet any reasonable complaints. The construction of the railway has, however, brought about an unusual demand for labour, especially in the Surma Valley districts; and it is not unnatural that some coolies should take advantage of this to desert their former employers.

Arrests and convictions of deserters under Act contracts.

36. The following table shows for each district—(1) the number of desertions of labourers under contracts under Act I of 1882, (2) the number of warrants issued for the arrest of such deserters; (3) the number of such deserters arrested, and (4) the number convicted of the offence of desertion (section 175, Act I of 1882):

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested.					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar	1,023	119	11	36	3	8	58	53
Sylhet	980	200	58	41	...	...	99	45
Kámrúp	52	1	1	...	...	...	1	1
Darrang	877	133	54	81	...	...	135	115
Nowgong ...	281	42	19	41	6	...	66	51
Sibságar ...	1,225	104	43	241	2	1	287	281
Lakhimpur ...	1,195	114	67	182	...	2	251	207
Total of 1894 ...	5,633	713	253	622	11	11	897	753
„ „ *1893* ...	*6,173*	*751*	*440*	*416*	*116*	*12*	*984*	*922*

These figures show that only about one-sixth of the coolies who desert are apprehended, and that the rest succeed in getting away. In the Surma Valley, where the facilities for escape are much greater, the proportion of deserters who succeed in evading arrest is much higher than in the Assam Valley.

Proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens respectively.

37. The following table shows the proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens separately:

District.	Mean strength.		Number of desertions.		Percentage of desertions to labour force.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
Cachar ... *Healthy gardens* ...	*94,242*	*94,343*	*1,731*	*1,551*	*1·84*	*1·64*	*3·48*
Cachar ... Unhealthy „ ...	13,387	13,608	652	786	4·87	5·77	10·64
Sylhet ... *Healthy* „ ...	*92,771*	*94,962*	*3,795*	*2,535*	*4·09*	*2·66*	*6·75*
Sylhet ... Unhealthy „ ...	9,271	9,423	553	578	5·96	6·13	12·09
Kámrúp ... *Healthy* „ ...	*2,934*	*2,886*	*79*	*89*	*2·69*	*3·08*	*5·77*
Kámrúp ... Unhealthy „ ...	410	514	12	36	2·92	7·00	9·92
Darrang ... *Healthy* „ ...	*49,828*	*51,340*	*788*	*589*	*1·58*	*1·14*	*2·72*
Darrang ... Unhealthy „ ...	3,853	3,801	94	116	2·44	3·05	5·49
Nowgong ... *Healthy* „ ...	*13,051*	*13,077*	*198*	*244*	*1·51*	*1·86*	*3·37*
Nowgong ... Unhealthy „ ...	3,989	4,060	124	127	3·10	3·12	6·22
Sibságar ... *Healthy* „ ...	*93,979*	*95,987*	*916*	*1,083*	*0·97*	*1·12*	*2·09*
Sibságar ... Unhealthy „ ...	18,437	18,760	307	311	1·66	1·65	3·31
Lakhimpur ... *Healthy* „ ...	*85,859*	*86,489*	*1,017*	*1,109*	*1·18*	*1·28*	*2·46*
Lakhimpur ... Unhealthy „ ...	8,395	9,010	215	175	2·56	1·94	4·50
Total ... *Healthy* „ ...	*432,664*	*439,084*	*8,524*	*7,200*	*1·97*	*1·64*	*3·61*
Total ... Unhealthy „ ...	57,742	59,176	1,957	2,129	3·39	3·59	6·98
Grand total	490,410	498,262	10,481	9,329	2·14	1·87	4·10

As is usually the case, the proportion of deserters from unhealthy gardens is far higher than that from healthy gardens. The figures in this statement are not confined

to adult coolies, but also include children; and as comparatively few coolies with families desert, most of the deserters being solitary men and women, the total percentage of desertions (4·01) shown in this statement is less than that shown in the statement in paragraph 35 (5·18).

Punishments for desertions in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens respectively.

38. The following tables show the punishments inflicted during the past two years on Act labourers for desertions from healthy and unhealthy gardens separately :

A.—From healthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																		Others.	
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.			
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	75	43	1	..	1	..	19	9	..	..	13	2	11	16	..	1	25	6	1	9	4	..
Sylhet	49	40	1	..	..	..	3	6	2	24	2	..	12	8	2	..	11	2	8	..	8	..
Kámrúp	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	121	94	..	..	1	1	7	17	1	7	14	..	..	44	6	4	71	13	5	4	16	4
Nowgong	31	18	..	..	..	.	10	7	9	1	6	..	2	8	..	1	3	1	1	..	..	..
Sibságar	162	218	1	1	2	2	71	108	9	4	13	29	20	21	3	12	21	16	19	24	3	1
Lakhimpur	291	176	..	..	.	1	47	30	37	17	53	20	81	47	23	23	12	28	15	2	23	8
Total	729	590	3	1	4	4	157	178	58	53	101	51	126	144	34	41	143	66	49	39	54	13

B.—From unhealthy Gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																		Others.	
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.			
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	14	10	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	1	9	1	2	..
Sylhet	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Kamrúp	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	10	..
Darrang	11	21	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	7	..	..	9	4	..	1	1	6
Nowgong	21	33	..	4	1	..	11	19	3	3	..	..	3	2	1	..	1	3	1	2	..	..
Sibságar	108	63	2	2	..	1	42	17	3	6	1	7	37	11	..	2	12	17	3	..	8	..
Lakhimpur	22	31	..	..	..	..	2	1	6	4	6	3	1	6	2	6	3	4	1	1	1	6
Total	193	163	2	6	1	1	55	43	13	15	7	10	43	29	3	10	33	29	14	5	22	15

These statements call for no remarks so far as healthy gardens are concerned. As regards unhealthy gardens, the Chief Commissioner has no doubt that Magistrates, in

passing sentences on deserters, give due weight to the fact that the garden from which the labourer deserted was unhealthy. The only district in which an undue proportion of labourers convicted of desertion from unhealthy gardens appear to have been sentenced to imprisonment for long periods is Nowgong. In this district, the Deputy Commissioner reports that there were 251 desertions of Act labourers from unhealthy gardens; 33 labourers were convicted, of whom 23 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or more. The Deputy Commissioner has not explained the circumstances under which it was found necessary to inflict these sentences. The matter will be further enquired into by the Chief Commissioner.

39. The following table shows the nationality and sex of the coolies who deserted:

Nationality and sex of deserters.

Nationality.	Sex.	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Bengal — Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Men ...	1,897	1,807	1,390	1,627	3,287	3,434	5·00	4·97	3·89	4·16	3·52	3·80
	Women...	672	808	1,094	1,402	1,766	2,210	1·95	2·47	3·09	3·50		
Bengal — Behar	Men ...	497	362	381	520	878	882	9·71	7·18	5·50	7·10	6·17	6·81
	Women...	164	172	332	521	496	693	4·27	4·38	5·19	7·64		
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa.	Men ...	650	573	994	1,061	1,644	1,634	6·67	5·83	5·16	5·27	4·35	4·62
	Women...	253	360	788	960	1,041	1,320	2·37	3·26	3·55	4·19		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	811	484	1,948	1,735	2,759	2,219	14·48	10·02	9·27	8·25	8·15	8·27
	Women...	306	360	1,080	1,517	1,386	1,877	6·88	9·03	5·53	7·69		
Central Provinces	Men ...	197	149	37	65	234	214	16·17	9·80	10·35	9·47	12·54	9·41
	Women...	94	106	22	40	116	140	10·36	8·84	7·21	9·07		
Madrás	Men ...	219	142	99	102	318	244	8·45	5·97	4·95	4·66	5·46	4·67
	Women...	105	77	72	93	177	170	4·47	3·94	3·36	3·93		
Bombay	Men ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3·03	1·72	3·26
	Women...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	6·25	5·55		
Nepal	Men ...	8	29	22	23	30	52	10·14	35·78	19·86	22·30	12·16	24·02
	Women...	...	4	2	3	2	7	...	14·99	3·81	4·47		
Assam	Men ...	262	152	569	706	831	858	13·18	8·23	8·31	9·31	8·21	7·80
	Women...	38	54	131	95	169	149	2·62	3·58	6·92	4·80		
Total	Men ...	4,541	3,698	5,440	5,840	9,981	9,538	7·06	5·97	5·89	5·95	6·37	5·96
	Women...	1,632	1,935	3,522	4,632	5,154	6,567	2·81	3·44	3·99	4·91	3·52	4·36
Grand total	....	6,173	5,633	8,962	10,472	15,135	16,105	5·05	4 76	4·96	5·44	5·00	5·18

This statement gives no new information. As usual, there were more desertions among male than among female coolies; and the different localities of recruitment stand in the following order of demerit:—the Central Provinces, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Behar, Madrás, Bengal Proper and Orissa, Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. Desertions were also numerous among Assam and Nepal coolies (most of the Nepalese coolies are probably persons settled in Assam), but their numbers are small, and they have exceptional temptations and facilities for leaving the gardens and going to their homes.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

40. The following table shows the birth-rate per mille on tea-gardens during each of the past two years calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers:

Birth-rate.

District.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	81·1	79·7
Sylhet	80·7	85·1
Kámrúp	79·8	88·3
Darrang	68·5	54·6
Nowgong	74·4	67·5
Sibságar	90·2	89·7
Lakhimpur	73·0	81·7
Total	79·7	80·2

Birth-rate according to nationality.

41. The table below distributes the births among the different nationalities, and shows the birth-rate among each class calculated on the mean strength of adult females :

District.	Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.			Behar.			Bengal Proper and Orissa.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Central Provinces.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	8,969	727	81·0	3,320	267	80·4	12,047	970	80·5	7,797	624	80·0	150	9	60·0
Sylhet	7,835	669	85·4	2,839	208	73·2	6,595	479	72·6	11,489	1,126	98·0	228	7	30·7
Kámrúp	422	50	118·4	93	18	193·5	464	19	40·9	17	..	..	8	2	250·0
Darrang	9,427	513	54·4	765	44	57·5	3,288	87	26·4	1,097	113	103·0	382	27	70·6
Nowgong	3,249	256	78·7	226	6	26·5	771	33	42·8	168	7	41·6	102	..	..
Sibságar ..	20,877	1,599	76·5	2,412	246	101·9	6,317	874	138·3	2,169	151	69·6	253	13	51·3
Lakhimpur	22,036	1,806	81·9	1,087	76	69·9	4,458	360	80·7	1,000	90	90·0	484	26	53·7
Total of 1894 ..	72,820	5,620	77·2	10,745	865	80·5	33,947	2,822	83·1	23,739	2,111	88·9	1,610	84	52·2
„ „ *1893* ..	*69,742*	*5,642*	*80·9*	*10,213*	*774*	*75·7*	*32,758*	*2,845*	*86·8*	*24,240*	*1,840*	*75·9*	*1,226*	*47*	*38·3*

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Nepal.			Assam.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	378	18	47·6	10	..	..	23	1	43·4	157	3	19·1	32,856	2,619	79·7
Sylhet	2,154	136	63·1	4	..	..	5	.	..	27	31	1148·1	31,179	2,656	85·1
Kámrúp	16	..		1	..	..	1	..	..	152	15	98·6	1,178	104	88·3
Darrang	602	64	106·3	..	..	..	51	4	78·4	1,927	107	55·5	17,544	959	54·6
Nowgong	79	5	63·2	..	..	..	2	..	..	405	31	76·5	5,007	338	67·5
Sibságar	614	28	45·6	4	..	..	3	..	..	641	76	118·5	33,297	2,987	89·7
Lakhimpur	446	46	103·1	2	..	..	4	1	250·0	154	21	136·3	29,675	2,426	81·7
Total of 1894 ..	4,292	297	69·2	21	..	..	91	6	65·9	3,467	284	81·9	150,738	12,089	80·2
„ „ *1893* ..	*4,477*	*226*	*50·4*	*19*	*2*	*105·2*	*75*	*8*	*106·6*	*3,329*	*269*	*80·8*	*146,083*	*11,653*	*79·7*

Although the above figures show a slight improvement as compared with the previous year, the birth-rate on tea-gardens is very low, and has been steadily diminishing since 1882. This matter was fully gone into in last year's Report, and the conclusion arrived at was that the decrease in the birth-rate among the labour force could not be due to deterioration in the health of the labourers, as there had been a steady decrease in the death-rate reported from tea gardens in recent years, but must be due to inaccurate registration owing to the annually increasing number of coolies who live, not in the garden lines, but in villages outside them. There can be no doubt that a large proportion of births remains unreported from tea-gardens. Under the improved system of inspection which has recently been introduced, inspecting officers will pay special attention to this point; and orders have recently been issued impressing on employers of labour and district officers the necessity for scrutinizing carefully the record of births.

If these measures do not effect an improvement in the reporting, the Chief Commissioner will be compelled to consider whether additional registers and returns of births should not be prescribed.

Death-rate for the year.

42. The statistics of mortality for the year, and for each half-year separately, are given in the table below with the corresponding figures of the previous year :

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers, including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	1,124	1,171	2,232	1,494	3,356	2,665	10·5	10·8	20·6	13·8	31·1	24·6
Sylhet	1,089	1,287	1,554	1,651	2,643	2,938	10·8	12·6	15·3	15·8	26·1	28·4
Kámrúp	77	60	105	83	182	143	22·3	17·9	31·4	24·4	53·7	42·3
Darrang	822	760	1,360	884	2,182	1,644	15·6	14·2	25·8	16·0	41·4	30·2
Nowgong	336	347	391	420	727	767	19·7	20·3	22·8	24·5	42·5	44·8
Sibságar	1,376	1,838	2,098	2,418	3,474	4,256	12·9	16·3	19·0	21·0	31·9	37·3
Lakhimpur	1,557	1,497	1,861	1,895	3,418	3,392	17·4	15·8	20·4	19·8	37·8	35·6
Total	6,381	6,960	9,601	8,845	15,982	15,805	13·4	14·2	19·8	17·7	33·2	31·9

The low death-rate of 1893 was still further reduced during the year under report, which was, generally speaking, a healthy year in this province. The following figures compare the death-rate reported from tea-gardens in Assam with the reported death-rate among the general population in each province in India for the last three years for which complete figures are available in this office :

Province.	Death-rate per mille.			Average.
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1891-93.
Madras	26·2	22·3	19·3	22·9
Bombay	27·26	32·50	27·20	28·98
Bengal	26·94	31·92	28·21	29·02
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	31·14	34·11	24·10	29·78
Punjab	29·13	49·48	28·13	35·58
Central Provinces	35·54	34·14	27·70	32·46
Assam	29·91	34·21	30·28	31·46
Hyderabad	40·6	28·8	32·6	34·0
Assam tea-gardens	36·8	41·9	33·2	37·3

These figures show that, making allowances for varying degrees of accuracy of registration in the different provinces, the tea-garden death-rate is fairly satisfactory, as compared with the reported death-rate of the different provinces. A higher death-rate than that of the general population must always be expected on tea-gardens, as experience has shown that the climate of Assam is peculiarly unsuited to new immigrants during the first year or two of their residence in the province, and as so many of the immigrants imported for tea-gardens are persons of poor physique. The Chief Commissioner has no reason to suppose that the registration of deaths is not as accurate on tea-gardens as in any province, so far as adult labourers are concerned ; but, as will be observed below (paragraph 46), the record of the deaths of children is clearly incomplete.

43. The following table shows the mortality among both Act and non-Act adult labourers during each of the past two years :

Death-rate amongst adults.

District.	Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.						Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.			
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar	658	443	1,715	1,721	2,373	2,164	82·6	61·5	29·1	28·9	35·6	32·4	66,470	66,641
Sylhet	306	446	1,550	1,685	1,856	2,131	38·4	48·4	29·5	32·1	30·7	34·6	60,271	61,456
Kámrúp	82	47	50	60	132	107	95·5	62·6	35·8	39·8	58·4	47·4	2,262	2,250
Darrang	1,389	880	335	364	1,724	1,244	57·4	36·1	27·4	25·9	47·3	33·5	36,448	37,068
Nowgong	283	278	225	286	508	564	67·4	71·3	32·9	39·7	46·0	50·8	11,047	11,102
Sibságar	1,666	1,979	663	984	2,329	2,963	41·8	52·9	24·8	31·0	34·9	42·8	66,299	69,116
Lakhimpur	1,940	1,705	648	748	2,588	2,453	52·1	46·6	28·6	28·2	43·3	38·8	59,757	63,150
Total	6,324	5,978	5,186	5,848	11,510	11,626	51·7	48·9	28·5	30·3	37·9	37·4	302,558	310,766

This statement shows that there was a slight increase in the mortality among non-Act coolies, among whom; however, the death-rate is not above the normal death-rate of the general population, but that there has been, during the year, a satisfactory decrease in the death-rate of Act labourers as compared with previous years. Excluding Kámrúp, the ratio for which district is struck on a comparatively small labour force, the death-rate of Act labourers was highest in Cachar and Nowgong ; in the latter district the mortality among non-Act coolies was also high. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar has made no remarks about the mortality among Act labourers in his district, but merely confined himself to explaining the decrease as compared with the previous year, by saying that the year under report was a healthy one. He explains, however, in a later paragraph (see paragraph 47 below) that the bad results are due to very unsuitable coolies being sent up to the district. In Nowgong the high mortality was, no doubt, due to the prevalence of malarial fevers and *kála-azár*.

44. The following table shows the recorded causes of deaths which occurred among Act coolies during each of the past two years:

Causes of deaths among Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1894.		Deaths from							Total of columns 4 to 10.			Annual rate of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	1894	7,283	7,123	110	85	83	95	25	15	30	191	252	443	61·5
	1893	*7,958*	*7,962*	*235*	*227*	...	*108*	*52*	*10*	*26*	*175*	*483*	*658*	*82·6*
Sylhet	1894	8,954	9,451	93	...	91	34	59	...	169	227	219	446	48·4
	1893	*7,461*	*8,258*	*35*	*1*	*84*	*40*	*32*	*2*	*112*	*113*	*193*	*306*	*38·4*
Kámrúp	1894	781	729	8	1	4	8	12	2	12	20	27	47	62·6
	1893	*904*	*830*	*8*	*2*	*12*	*8*	*27*	...	*25*	*32*	*50*	*82*	*95·5*
Darrang	1894	23,128	22,964	175	89	156	38	174	139	109	402	478	880	38·1
	1893	*24,519*	*23,982*	*87*	*114*	*308*	*116*	*350*	*216*	*198*	*516*	*873*	*1,389*	*27·4*
Nowgong	1894	3,854	3,944	21	9	31	77*	27	6	107	131	147	278	71·3
	1893	*4,240*	*4,161*	*40*	...	*48*	*40*	*32*	*22*	*101*	*126*	*157*	*283*	*67·4*
Sibságar	1894	37,817	37,065	437	160	495	102	114	...	671	811	1,168	1,979	52·9
	1893	*39,742*	*39,783*	*210*	*149*	*403*	*108*	*141*	...	*655*	*654*	*1,012*	*1,666*	*41·8*
Lakhimpur	1894	37,158	36,075	224	101	407	140	216	127	490	774	931	1,705	46·6
	1893	*36,677*	*37,656*	*387*	*71*	*469*	*115*	*309*	...	*589*	*943*	*997*	*1,940*	*52·1*
Total	1894	118,976	117,352	1,068	445	1,267	494	627	289	1,588	2,556	3,222	5,778	48·9
	1893	*121,502*	*122,633*	*1,002*	*564*	*1,324*	*535*	*943*	*250*	*1,706*	*2,559*	*3,765*	*6,324*	*51·7*
	1892	*115,025*	*117,973*	*1,443*	...	*1,617*	*847*	*775*	...	*2,827*	*3,436*	*4,073*	*7,509*	*64·3*

* Of these, 61 were attributed to *kála-azár*.

45. The following table shows the recorded causes of deaths among non-Act adult coolies during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths amongst non-Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act coolies employed in 1894.		Deaths from							Total of columns 4 to 10.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	1894	59,400	59,477	313	315	275	278	18	167	355	796	925	1,721	28·9
	1893	*58,113*	*58,907*	*465*	*325*	...	*207*	*42*	*175*	*501*	*598*	*1,117*	*1,715*	*29·1*
Sylhet	1894	51,793	52,714	201	...	373	215	91	...	805	716	969	1,685	32·2
	1893	*52,460*	*52,364*	*224*	...	*372*	*199*	*59*	...	*696*	*610*	*940*	*1,550*	*29·5*
Kámrúp	1894	1,445	1,544	6	1	5	28	1	...	19	22	38	60	39·8
	1893	*1,402*	*1,389*	*7*	...	*5*	*11*	*5*	...	*22*	*24*	*26*	*50*	*35·8*
Darrang	1894	13,330	14,714	36	25	45	27	50	71	110	182	182	364	26·0
	1893	*12,235*	*12,161*	*26*	*11*	*61*	*49*	*17*	*80*	*91*	*140*	*195*	*335*	*27·4*
Nowgong	1894	7,192	7,215	17	17	33	102*	19	4	94	127	159	286	39·7
	1893	*6,783*	*6,911*	*22*	...	*26*	*55*	*21*	*17*	*84*	*116*	*109*	*225*	*32·9*
Sibságar	1894	30,607	32,743	227	62	183	78	30	...	404	466	518	984	31·0
	1893	*25,424*	*27,650*	*100*	*52*	*116*	*59*	*26*	...	*310*	*289*	*374*	*663*	*24·8*
Lakhimpur	1894	25,577	27,450	79	58	150	72	81	38	270	319	429	748	28·0
	1893	*22,356*	*22,825*	*105*	*37*	*129*	*56*	*73*	...	*248*	*331*	*317*	*648*	*28·6*
Total	1894	189,347	195,859	879	478	1,064	800	290	280	2,057	2,628	3,220	5,848	30·3
	1893	*178,773*	*182,209*	*949*	*425*	*709*	*636*	*243*	*272*	*1,952*	*2,108*	*3,078*	*5,186*	*28·5*
	1892	*164,957*	*169,684*	*782*	...	*1,209*	*983*	*282*	...	*3,060*	*3,254*	*3,062*	*6,316*	*37·7*

* Of these, 71 deaths were attributed to *kala-azár*.

46. The following statement shows the causes of deaths and the death-rate among children (*i.e.*, from birth to sixteen years of age) during each of the past two years :

Death-rate amongst children.

District.	Mean strength of children in 1894.		Deaths from								Total of columns 4 to 10.			Total of 1893.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *uncinitos-tomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.		1894.	1893.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Cachar	40,946	41,351	115	48	128	75	10	30	95	184	317	501	983	12·1	24·0
Sylhet	41,295	42,219	46	...	145	131	21	...	464	344	463	807	787	19·2	19·4
Kámrúp	1,117	1,127	1	1	1	13	...	...	20	18	18	36	50	32·0	44·3
Darrang	17,223	17,463	38	33	82	69	36	16	126	176	224	400	458	23·0	28·0
Nowgong	5,994	5,977	11	8	27	77*	10	6	64	89	114	203	219	33·9	36·2
Siliságar	43,991	44,939	179	99	291	250	10	...	464	561	732	1,293	1,145	28·9	27·0
Lakhimpur	31,519	31,973	51	41	224	230	48	52	293	404	535	939	830	29·5	27·1
Total of 1894	182,087	185,051	441	230	898	845	135	104	1,526	1,776	2,403	4,179	4,472	22·7	...
,, 1893	*175,205*	*179,162*	*350*	*166*	*1,184*	*951*	*153*	*50*	*1,618*	*1,714*	*2,758*	*4,472*	...	...	*25·0*

* Of these, 45 deaths were from *kála-azár*.

The recorded mortality among children on tea estates thus reached the very low rate of 22·7 per 1,000—a rate which it is impossible to accept as correct. The figures recorded for the last few years show that, as in the case of the registration of births, there is very great negligence among employers in the registration of deaths of children, and probably a large number of deaths among non-working children pass unnoticed. This is a serious defect in the working of the labour system, and the Chief Commissioner will consider separately what steps should be taken to ensure correct registration of deaths of children.

47. The following statement illustrates the mortality among adult tea-garden coolies distributed according to nationality :

Mortality according to country of origin.

Nationality.	Sex.	Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.		Annual strength of adults of both Act and non-Act labourers.	
		1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Bengal — Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Men	2,843	2,722	38·3	36·1	143,391	148,361
	Women... ...	2,670	2,647				
Bengal — Behar	Men	577	620	44·3	46·6	22,237	23,100
	Women... ...	412	459				
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa	Men	932	941	31·5	31·2	61,746	63,881
	Women... ...	1,021	1,056				
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	Men	1,165	1,351	41·9	46·2	50,838	49,572
	Women... ...	966	941				
Central Provinces	Men	128	181	69·5	72·5	2,807	3,802
	Women... ...	68	97				
Madras	Men	270	198	58·0	46·7	9,058	8,861
	Women... ...	255	216				
Bombay	Men	3	...	51·7	...	57	62
	Women... ...	...	...				
Nepal	Men	18	6	38·8	28·5	266	246
	Women... ...	5	1				
Assam	Men	116	102	14·5	14·8	12,156	12,878
	Women... ...	61	88				
Total	Men	6,052	6,121	38·6	38·2	156,475	160,028
	Women... ...	5,458	5,505	37·7	36·4	146,083	150,738
Grand total		11,510	11,626	37·9	37·4	302,558	310,766

The highest mortality occurred, as in the previous year, among coolies from the Central Provinces and Madras. Most of the Madras coolies are recruited from Ganjam; and, as the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang points out, they fall into two classes, the hill and plains Ganjamis, the former class being much better suited in point of physique to stand the Assam climate and tea-garden labour. Separate statistics of Central Provinces coolies have only been kept for the last three years, and during all these years the mortality among them has been very great. As regards the death-rate among labourers from Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar makes the following remarks :

Taking the immigrants from the five main localities of recruitment, it will be seen that the greatest proportion of mortality occurred amongst immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Behar. If we take North-Western Provinces and Behar as one group, and Bengal and Chota Nagpur as another, the mortality in the former is 51·5 per 1,000 as against 19·5 per 1,000 in the latter. Such figures

show only too clearly, as I have more than once pointed out, that the North-Western Provinces and Behar coolie, except in a few cases, is not suited to Cachar, and I am almost inclined to think that some drastic remedy will have to be adopted, such as forbidding the recruitment of such coolies for this district generally, except in the case of those gardens, most of which are already known, which can show clearly that they are suited to North-West labour. The worst offenders in this matter of importing unsuitable labour are Calcutta agents. It matters nothing, or at all events practically nothing, to them how a coolie can live on the garden for which he is imported. * * * *. Very few managers are in a position to refuse to take the coolies agents send. * * * *. Some agents, I understand, have coolies medically examined before sending them, but even this does not always prevent their sending up people who really have no reasonable chance of life in this district. This may seem strong language, but it is, I think, justified by facts.

The Chief Commissioner has not sufficient materials before him for forming an opinion how far the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner may be correct, but he fears that the recruitment of unsuitable labourers is one of the chief causes of the high mortality prevailing among new immigrants in the province; and from cases which have been brought to his notice from time to time, he has reason to believe that necessary and available precautions are not always taken by the responsible persons in the selection of recruits. The evil is aggravated by very frequent misdescriptions of coolies, coolies of classes unsuited to the climate and work being described as belonging to suitable classes, and managers being induced by this misdescription to accept them. As has been pointed out on many occasions, the only remedy which the Administration has for preventing mortality from this cause, is to hold gardens, on which high mortality occurs, strictly responsible for the results, and to decline to accept the excuse that the mortality is due to the importation of unfit coolies (see paragraph 6 of this report). Such gardens are accordingly proceeded against under sections 128-133 of the Act, and are closed to labourers generally, or to the particular classes of labourers among whom the mortality occurred. Owing, however, to frequent misdescriptions of labourers in their contract papers, it is often difficult to determine, at the time the enquiry is held, to what classes of coolies the mortality was really due. The Chief Commissioner has been unable to find a remedy for this difficulty. The Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára was instructed last year to decline to attest contracts entered into at Dhubri in cases in which the intending labourer was obviously misdescribed, and the Government of Bengal was consulted on the point whether it could issue similar instructions to registering officers in that Province. The Bengal Government, however, has not been able to accept the suggestion, and sufficient experience has not yet been obtained of the action taken at Dhubri to enable an opinion to be formed as to the extent to which it has been successful in checking misdescriptions.

Proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district.

48. The following statement shows the number and proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district during the last two years. Gardens are now classed as unhealthy on which the average mortality either for the garden population as a whole, or for the Act or non-Act population taken separately, exceeds 7 per cent., and the number of deaths from which the average is struck is not less than ten.

District.	Number of gardens.		Number of unhealthy gardens.		Percentage of unhealthy gardens.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	187	187	22	18	11·7	9·5
Sylhet	119	125	2	9	1·6	7·2
Kámrúp	32	32	3	2	9·6	6·2
Darrang	88	88	17	9	19·3	10·2
Nowgong	55	55	8	9	14·5	16·3
Sibságar	181	177	15	28	8·2	15·
Lakhimpur	143	143	8	11	5·5	7·6
Total	805	807	75	86	9·3	10·6

The paragraphs which follow in this chapter show which of the gardens included in this statement were unhealthy in respect of total population and which of them unhealthy in respect of Act and non-Act population taken separately. It will be seen that the large majority of them were unhealthy in respect of Act population only.

Previous to 1889 only those gardens were placed on the unhealthy list which were unhealthy in respect of total population. The following table shows the number of

unhealthy gardens in each district in the years 1882 to 1894, or since Act I of 1882 came into force, classified according to the method in force before 1889 :

District.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893	1894.
Cachar ...	3	5	9	1	10	7	7	12	1	5	8	3	2
Sylhet ...	...	14	15	18	13	5	4	10	1	3	3	...	...
Kámrúp ...	2	2	3	3	...	...	2	1	6.	4	5	1	1
Darrang ...	14	14	14	9	8	10	12	10	2	5	12	...	...
Nowgong ...	16	14	16	3	4	2	2	6	2	3	5	5	7
Sibságar ...	7	11	25	5	15	10	21	18	11	6	14	1	6
Lakhimpur ...	15	13	11	3	14	15	17	12	5	4	8	4	5
Total ...	57*	73†	93‡	42§	64	49	65	69	28	30	55	14	21

* Of these, 13 gardens had less than 10 deaths on each.
† This includes two camps in which coolies recruited by a Local Board were located.
‡ The number of deaths on three gardens was less than 10.
§ Ditto two ditto.

It will be seen that, as compared with previous years, the number of unhealthy gardens in 1893 and 1894 is very small, and that there has been a considerable improvement in this respect since the present Act came into force.

49. The paragraphs which follow show the action which was taken during the year for dealing with unhealthy gardens under the coercive sections of the Act (sections 128-133), which empower the Administration to prohibit the employment of Act labourers on estates which are considered unfit in point of unhealthiness for their residence. The amendments made in these sections by Act VII of 1893 have considerably strengthened the hands of this Administration and its officers in dealing with unhealthy gardens, and, as the result, stricter action has been taken in most districts than in previous years.

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Cachar district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Dolugram ...	198	193	7	17	24	35·3	88·0	123·3
	2. Scottpur ...	113	92	6	4	10	53·0	43 5	96·5
	3. Pathicherra ...	160	149	9	5	14	56·2	33·5	89·7
	4. Kumbir ...	154	179	7	11	18	45·4	61·4	106·8
	5. Thailu ...	128	100	9	3	12	70·3	30·0	100·3
	6. Marticherra ...	169	129	11	26	37	65·0	201·5	266·5
	7. Joypur and Burtol...	141	137	4	9	13	28·3	65·6	93·9
	8. Dewan ...	157	135	7	8	15	44·5	59·2	103·7
	9. Lallang ...	154	131	8	5	13	51·9	38·1	90·0
	10. Pallarband ...	117	104	3	9	12	25·6	86·5	112·1
	11. Chengur ...	51	79	2	9	11	39·2	113·9	153·1
	12. Rosekandi ...	336	300	10	14	24	29·7	46·6	76·3
	13. Nagadum ...	105	91	5	8	13	47·6	87·9	135·5
	14. Bandhu ...	140	141	8	8	16	57·1	56·7	113·8
Hailákándi ...	15. Lallacherra ...	118	143	4	12	16	33·8	83·9	117·7
	16. Burnibraes ...	170	169	9	10	19	52·9	59·1	112·0
	Total ...	2,411	2,272	109	158	267	45·2	69·5	114·7

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Malarious fever.	Respiratory diseases.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Dolugram ...	1	12	...	6	1	3	1	24
	2. Scottpur ...	2	1	...	2	...	5	...	10
	3. Pathicherra ...	2	2	2	1	6	...	1	14
	4. Kumbir ...	3	3	1	3	2	6	...	18
	5. Thailu ...	1	3	...	6	...	2	...	12
	6. Marticherra ...	7	9	1	1	16	...	3	37
	7. Joypur and Burtol...	...	3	2	...	3	3	2	13
	8. Dewan ...	1	3	...	...	4	7	...	15
	9. Lallang ...	1	6	...	2	3	1	...	13
	10. Pallarband ...	5	2	1	...	...	4	...	12
	11. Chengur ...	...	9	...	2	...	...	...	11
	12. Rosekandi ...	3	1	1	2	16	...	1	24
	13. Nagadum ...	1	3	2	...	4	2	1	13
	14. Bandhu ...	1	4	2	4	4	1	...	16
Hailákándi ...	15. Lallacherra ...	...	5	2	...	...	6	3	16
	16. Burnibraes ...	5	5	1	...	3	3	2	19
	Total ...	33	71	15	29	62	43	14	267

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	17. Alyne ...	394	379	28	49	77	71·0	129·2	200·2
Hailákándi ...	18. Jhaffirband ...	882	957	20	49	69	22·6	51·2	73·8
	Total ...	1,276	1,336	48	98	146	37·6	73·3	110·9

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Malarious fever.	Respiratory diseases.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	17. Alyne ...	6	26	8	16	10	...	11	77
Hailákándi ...	18. Jhaffirband ...	4	7	11	8	19	5	15	69
	Total ...	10	33	19	24	29	5	26	146

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population only.

The following is a summary of the action taken with regard to the above mentioned gardens.

Owing to the Civil Surgeon of Cachar having been in medical charge of the wing of the Native regiment stationed in Silchar, and unable therefore to leave the station for any length of time on inspection duty, his inspection reports on the following eight gardens have not been received, and it has not been possible to pass orders as to the action which should be taken regarding the high mortality on them. These gardens will be inspected as soon as the Civil Surgeon's military duties permit, and the Chief

Commissioner's orders on the inspection reports will be referred to in the report for the current year. The names of the gardens are as follows :

(1) Dolugram.	(6) Marticherra.
(2) Scottpur.	(11) Chengur.
(3) Pathicherra.	(13) Nagadum.
(4) Kumbir.	(17) Alyne.

Of the above gardens, (3) Pathicherra, (4) Kumbir, and (6) Marticherra were unhealthy on the first half-year's returns, and committees should be held on these gardens in accordance with the orders contained in page 53 of the Provincial Immigration Report for 1893; (13) Nagadum was reported by the Deputy Commissioner to have been closed in 1894; but returns of labourers have since been received from it. If the garden has not been closed, the Deputy Commissioner should either convene a committee on it or cause a medical inspection to be held under section 130.

(5) *Thailu.*—This garden has been unhealthy for the past four years. On the recommendation of a committee held on the 21st March 1894, it was closed to future importations of North-Western Provinces and Behar coolies. The Deputy Commissioner, in view of the continued high mortality, has been directed to bring pressure on the management to transfer the North-Western Provinces coolies now on the garden to other gardens under the same management better suited for them. If the manager fails to do this, the Chief Commissioner will probably find it necessary to take steps with a view to closing the garden to Act labourers.

(7) *Joypur and Burtol.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar that a committee should be held on this garden, if, on receipt of the first half-yearly returns for 1895, he finds that the mortality has been at the rate of over 7 per cent. per annum.

(8) *Dewan.*—A committee should have been held on this garden in accordance with the Chief Commissioner's orders, reproduced at page 53 of the Provincial Immigration Report for 1893, on receipt of the first half-year's return for 1894. The Chief Commissioner has ordered that a committee should be held on this garden as soon as possible.

(9) *Lallang*, (10) *Pallarband*, (12) *Rosekandi, and* (14) *Bandhu.*—The Deputy Commissioner will hold a committee on these gardens, if, on receipt of the first half-year's returns for 1895, he finds that the mortality is unduly high.

(15) *Lallacherra and* (16) *Burnibraes.*—The Civil Surgeon recommends the closing of these gardens to new importations of North-Western Provinces and Oudh coolies. His recommendation should be carried out. If the management fail to comply with this recommendation, the Chief Commissioner will consider whether it is not necessary to take steps under the Act with a view to the garden being closed to Act labourers, or to particular classes of Act labourers.

(18) *Jhaffirband.*—Both the Civil Surgeon and the manager seem to consider that this estate is unfit for the residence of North-Western Provinces, Arrah, or Patna coolies. From the inspection report it does not appear that the causes of mortality have been enquired into in sufficient detail to enable the Chief Commissioner to judge how far this opinion is justifiable. The mortality on this estate was just over 7 per cent., being 7·33. The Deputy Commissioner has been instructed to watch this garden carefully.

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

50. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Sylhet district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Karimganj ...	1. Hatikhira ...	1,566	1,832	31	127	158	19·7	69·3	89·0
South Sylhet ...	2. Fuskuri ...	412	423	12	18	30	29·1	42·5	71·6
	3. Barmacherra ...	390	317	13	12	25	33·3	37·8	71·1
	4. Patrikola ...	99	120	4	6	10	40·4	50·0	90·4
	5. Tipperacherra ...	227	231	9	9	18	39·6	38·9	78·5
Habiganj ...	6. Chandpur ...	219	219	10	12	22	45·6	54·7	100·3
	Total ...	2,913	3,142	79	184	263	27·1	58·5	85·6

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	
Karimganj ...	1. Hatikhira ...	48	...	28	...	...	...	82	158
South Sylhet ...	2. Fuskuri ...	6	2	5	3	4	4	6	30
	3. Barmacherra ...	7	1	3	...	2	2	10	25
	4. Patrikola ...	1	...	2	...	4	...	3	10
	5. Tipperacherra ...	4	3	6	...	3	...	2	18
Habiganj ...	6. Chandpur ...	5	...	4	...	6	2	5	22
	Total ...	71	6	48	3	19	8	108	263

Unhealthy on Non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Karimganj ...	7. Piplagul ...	648	733	7	57	64	10·7	77·6	88·3
	8. Bhubirghat ...	380	493	16	36	52	42·1	73·0	115·1
South Sylhet ...	9. Rangiacherra ...	96	126	...	11	11	...	87·3	87·3
	Total ...	1,124	1,352	23	104	127	20·4	76·9	97·3

Causes of Deaths (Non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Karimganj ...	7. Piplagul ...	...	...	20	11	...	...	33	64
	8. Bhubirghat ...	7	...	21	1	...	...	23	52
South Sylhet ...	9. Rangiacherra ...	...	...	4	4	...	...	3	11
	Total ...	7	....	45	16	...	...	59	127

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together. The following action has been taken in this district.

(1) *Hatikhira and* (3) *Barmacherra.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet that a committee should be held on each of these gardens.

(2) *Fuskuri.*—The death-rate on this garden was just over 7 per cent., and the Civil Surgeon anticipates that the garden will in future escape the unhealthy list if recommendations are carried out in regard to the improvement of the water-supply and coolie-lines. A committee will be held on this garden if the first half-year's returns for 1895 show a high death-rate.

(4) *Patrikolà.*—This garden was unhealthy for the first time, and the mortality on which the percentage of deaths was calculated was small, being 10 deaths amongst an average population of 101 Act coolies. A committee will, however, be held on the garden if the first half-year's returns for 1895 show a high mortality amongst Act labourers.

(5) *Tipperacherra.*—This is a new garden, having been opened in 1893. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to see that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations as to the improvement of the water-supply and hospital accommodation, and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer, are given effect to, and to hold a committee if the returns for the first half-year of 1895 indicate a high rate of mortality.

(6) *Chandpur.*—This estate has been unhealthy for the first time. The Civil Surgeon does not consider that a committee is necessary, or that the estate, or any portion of it, requires to be closed to labourers of any class. It is expected that the garden will be healthy in future if the water-supply is improved, the present coolie lines abandoned, and a proper hospital provided. These recommendations should be carried out, and the Deputy Commissioner should hold a committee if the first half-yearly returns for 1895 show a high rate of mortality.

(7) *Piplagul.*—This is another garden unhealthy for the first time. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to see that the recommendations made by the Civil Surgeon for the improvement of the water-supply, the provision of a proper hospital, and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer are carried out.

(8) *Bhubirghat.*—This estate was unhealthy also on non-Act population in 1893. As no Act coolies are employed on this garden, the question of taking any coercive measures under sections 128-132 of the Act does not arise. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to bring pressure on the management to carry out the Civil Surgeon's recommendations as to the improvement of the hospital accommodation, water-supply, and coolie-lines.

(9) *Rangiacherra.*—This is a small garden unhealthy on non-Act coolies, among which there were 11 deaths, showing a percentage of mortality of 8·7; 7 of the deaths occurred amongst children under two years of age. No action has been considered necessary beyond requiring that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations regarding the construction of two *pucca* wells and the special care of sick children should be observed.

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

51. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Kámrúp district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Chunsali	91	84	8	9	17	87·9	107·1	195·0

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Chunsali	...	...	...	6	7	1	3	17

Unhealthy on Non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
2. Nunmathi	54	162	3	10	13	55·5	61·7	117·2

Causes of Deaths (Non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
2. Nunmathi	...	...	...	12	...	...	1	13

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together. In this, as in other districts of the Assam Valley, action was taken in respect of the unhealthy gardens, in accordance with the recommendations of the district officers and the Commissioner of the Division in nearly every case. The following action was taken in Kámrúp:

(1) *Chunsali.*—This garden has been on the unhealthy list continuously from 1888. In the Provincial Immigration Report for 1893, the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts was requested to have the garden inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. The garden was inspected accordingly. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, in forwarding the Civil Surgeon's inspection report, recommended that the garden should be declared unfit for the residence of "labourers." The Chief Commissioner has accepted his recommendation, and declared the garden to be unfit for the residence of Act labourers generally.

(2) *Nunmathi.*—There are no Act coolies on this estate. The percentage of mortality on 13 deaths was 11·72. Subject to the enforcement of the Civil Surgeon's recommendations regarding the construction of a good well, the drainage of the lines, and the clearing of jungle, no special action has been considered necessary.

52. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Darrang district, and show the causes of deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Hanchara	350	349	14	16	30	40·0	45·8	85·8
	2. Dhendai	492	466	22	22	44	44·7	47·2	91·9
	3. Ghoirali	214	200	17	12	29	79·4	60·0	139·4
	4. Sonajuli	954	1,031	92	45	137	96·4	43·6	140·0
	5. Sadharughop ...	304	294	8	20	28	26·3	68·0	94·3
	6. Pertabgarh ...	683	644	19	43	62	27·8	66·7	94·5
	7. Majuligarh ...	360	358	7	22	29	19·4	61·4	80 8
	8. Gellahating ...	232	227	13	12	25	56·0	52·8	108·8
	9. Behali	264	232	4	15	19	15·1	64·6	79·7
	Total	3,853	3,801	196	207	403	50·8	54·4	105·2

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa and dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Hanchara	2	12	3	4	...	9	30
	2. Dhendai	7	10	1	1	15	10	44
	3. Ghoirali	...	12	7	...	4	6	29
	4. Sonajuli	64	19	3	28	13	10	137
	5. Sadharughop	3	8	...	3	9	5	28
	6. Pertabgarh	7	35	3	13	2	2	62
	7. Majuligarh	2	11	...	11	2	3	29
	8. Gellahating	2	8	...	7	6	2	25
	9. Behali	1	5	...	7	2	4	19
	Total	88	120*	17	74	53	51	403

* Diarrhœa and dysentery cases have not been shown separately.

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population or on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The following action was taken in respect of these gardens :

(1) *Hanchara.*—This garden was unhealthy on Act labourers in 1893. A committee held on it in September 1894 recommended that it should be closed to new importations of Uriyas and Ganjamis, and this recommendation has been given effect to. In 1894, the mortality was over 8 per cent., and the Chief Commissioner has accepted the

recommendation made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, that the garden should be inspected under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, if the results of the first half-year of 1895 show a death-rate of over 7 per cent. per annum among Act coolies.

(2) *Dhendai.*—This garden has been unhealthy for the past four years. The Commissioner's proposal to hold a committee on it has been approved.

(3) *Ghoirali and* (4) *Sonajuli.*—The former garden was unhealthy on Act and non-Act coolies taken together in 1892. The medical arrangements appear to be neglected. The high mortality on the latter estate is said to be due to the importation of inferior labour. The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, to hold committees on both these gardens.

(5) *Sadharuqhop.*—This garden was specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon, but the causes of mortality were not gone into in sufficient detail in the inspection report to enable the Chief Commissioner to take action on it. The Commissioner's proposal to hold a committee on the garden has been approved.

(7) *Majuligarh.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1893. A committee was held on it on the 24th November 1894. The Chief Commissioner has observed that the management has continued to import North-Western Provinces and Oudh coolies in spite of the orders directing that effect should be given to the recommendation of the committee that the estate should be closed to labourers from that province, and he has directed that the contracts of all coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh recruited subsequently to the holding of the committee, if these are on contract under the Act, should be cancelled. The garden will be inspected under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act if the results for the first half-year of 1895 are bad.

(8) *Gellahating.*—Of 26 deaths among non-Act labourers, 17 occurred among children. The Chief Commissioner has approved the Commissioner's recommendation to hold a committee on this garden.

(9) *Behali.*—The garden was unhealthy for the first time since 1889. The mortality was under 8 per cent. per annum, and the Chief Commissioner has approved the proposal made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, that the garden should be inspected again under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act if the mortality on the first half-year's returns for 1895 exceeds 7 per cent. per annum. The garden appears to have no qualified medical officer; if so, the management should be required to entertain a qualified man.

The following action was also taken in 1894 in respect to the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1893, though not on the unhealthy list for 1894:

Pabhoi.—A committee was held on this garden, but the report of the committee was incomplete, and no action could be taken on it. The manager has been warned that, if he continues to import coolies of the classes found unsuitable to the garden by the committee, the Chief Commissioner will have to take steps with a view to closing the garden to these classes of labourers.

Diplonga.—A committee was held, which recorded a finding that the garden was unfit for the residence of North-Western Provinces and Oudh coolies, and the garden has been closed to coolies of this class. The Deputy Commissioner has also been requested to see that certain recommendations of the committee regarding the importation of suitable coolies, the site of the lines, and the water-supply are given effect to.

Panipota.—No distinct finding was arrived at by the committee held on this garden. In view of the management having stopped the importation of coolies from the districts of Ganjam and Orissa, and of an improvement having taken place in the health of the labourers on the estate, the Chief Commissioner concurred in the Commissioner's opinion that no further action was called for.

Belsiri.—The Chief Commissioner approved the Commissioner's recommendation that, as the proceedings of the committee held on this garden were faulty in that no definite finding was recorded whether the estate, or any portion of it, was unfit for the residence of labourers generally, or of any particular class, the garden should be inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 if the mortality for 1894 exceeds 7 per cent. per annum.

Namgaon.—A committee was held on this garden, and it was closed to coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and the Central Provinces.

Kunderbil.—In view of the management having taken action to exclude coolies of the classes among which a high mortality occurred, no action was considered necessary on the proceedings of the committee held on this garden.

Dolupadong.—The action taken in respect to this garden was set forth in the report for 1893.

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

53. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Nowgong district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Kulikusi	106	83	4	9	13	37·7	108·4	146·1
2. Rangamati	117	132	11	6	17	94·0	45·4	139·4
3. Old Salona	105	127	9	4	13	85·7	31·5	117·2
4. Borghat	129	194	16	6	22	124·0	30·9	154·9
5. New Salona	291	296	16	10	26	54·9	33·7	88·6
6. Sagmutia (Sakmuti)	291	294	10	23	33	34·3	78·2	112·5
Total	1,039	1,126	66	58	124	63·5	51·5	115·0

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Kulikusi	1	...	3	4	1	...	4	13
2. Rangamati	1	2	...	9	...	...	5	17
3. Old Salona	4	...	...	7	...	...	2	13
4. Borghat	1	1	1	9	...	2	8	22
5. New Salona	1	...	1	4	1	...	19	26
6. Sagmutia (Sakmuti)	...	1	9	7	2	1	13	33
Total	8	4	14	40	4	3	51	124

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
7. Nonai	166	167	6	13	19	36·1	77·8	113·9
8. Chapanalla (E)	180	178	7	6	13	38·8	33·7	72·5
Total	346	345	13	19	32	37·6	55·0	92·6

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
7. Nonai	...	...	...	18	...	...	1	19
8. Chapanalla (E)	...	...	...	11	...	...	2	13
Total	...	...	...	29	...	...	3	32

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
9. Owguri	148	123	2	10	12	13·5	81·3	94·8

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
9. Owguri	...	1	1	2	4	1	3	12

The following action has been taken in respect of the unhealthy gardens in this district :

(1) *Kulikusi.*—The high mortality on this estate was calculated on 13 deaths. The Civil Surgeon has made certain recommendations regarding the drainage of the lines, the provision of *charpoys* or *machans*, and medical arrangements generally. On the understanding that these recommendations will be given effect to, the Chief Commissioner, at the suggestion of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, has decided to take no special action in regard to this estate at present.

(2) *Rangamati.*—The garden has been unhealthy since 1892. *Kála-azár* appears to be the principal cause of the high mortality. On the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, the Chief Commissioner has decided that a committee should be held to determine whether the garden should not be declared unfit for the residence of labourers.

(3) *Old Salona.*—A committee was held on this garden on the 11th December 1894. The Chief Commissioner, before passing orders under section 129A of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, desired to give the manager of the garden the option of undertaking that no newly-imported labourers, *i.e.*, labourers who have not resided for at least a year in the province, shall be employed on this garden for at least a year from the date on which he gives this undertaking. The Chief Commissioner awaits the receipt of the undertaking on the part of the manager before deciding what further action shall be taken.

(4) *Borghat.*—The garden was unhealthy in 1892. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the proposal of the Commissioner to hold a committee on this garden.

(5) *New Salona.*—This garden has been unhealthy for the first time during the past five years. The Chief Commissioner has decided that it will not be necessary to hold a committee on this garden, unless, on receipt of the first half-yearly returns for 1895, it is found that the death-rate on it is unduly high.

(6) *Sagmutia* (*Sakmuti*).—A committee was held on the 10th December 1894 on this garden. The Commissioner has been requested to give effect to their finding, and to close the garden to labourers from the North-Western Provinces and to natives of the Hazaribagh district. The manager has also been informed that, if he does not avail himself of the facilities offered for the medical examination of all imported labourers for his estate in the district of recruitment, or at Dhubri, with a view to ascertaining their fitness to labour on tea estates in the labour districts, the Chief Commissioner will probably have to order an enquiry, with a view to determine whether the estate should not be closed altogether to Act labourers.

(7) *Nonai.*—The number of deaths among Act coolies was less than ten. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the Commissioner's suggestion that no special measures need at present be taken in the case of this garden. A committee will, however, be held on it, if the returns for the first half-year of 1895 show a high mortality.

(8) *Chapanalla.*—There are no Act coolies on the garden, and no special action has been considered necessary in respect to this garden.

(9) *Owguri.*—The number of deaths among Act coolies was seven only, and no special measures have been considered necessary as regards this garden. The Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, appears to have ordered prosecution of the employer for neglecting to provide a proper hospital and a properly-qualified medical officer.

The following action was also taken in 1894 in respect to the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1893, but not on the unhealthy list for 1894 :

Killing.—No special action was considered necessary beyond requiring the entertainment of a qualified medical officer.

Sakunbari.—The number of deaths on this garden having been only three in 1894, no further action was taken.

Barkundali.—This garden was also healthy in 1894, and reported to be in a satisfactory condition. No special action was required.

54. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Sibságar district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Nazira ...	44	65	12	2	14	272 7	30·7	303·4
	2. Suffry ...	824	920	27	46	73	32·7	50·0	82·7
	3. Thirwalbari ...	190	187	6	8	14	31·5	42·7	74·2
	4. Rajmai ...	905	832	44	45	89	48·6	54·0	102·6
	5. Maduri ...	165	153	6	9	15	36 3	58·8	95·1
Jorhát ...	6. Bheluguri ...	102	96	8	3	11	78·4	31·2	109·6
	7. Dehingapar ...	198	202	7	14	21	35·3	69·3	104·6
	8. Kathalguri ...	282	243	22	8	30	78·0	32·9	110·9
	9. Meleng ...	274	200	9	8	17	32·8	40·0	72·8
	10. Nahorbari ...	162	152	13	2	15	80·2	13·1	93·3
	11. Bandersalia ...	124	112	7	5	12	56·4	44·6	101·0
	12. Sykotta ...	478	480	23	26	49	48·1	54 2	102·3
	13. Daklangia ...	293	309	13	10	23	44·3	32·3	76·6
Golághát ...	14. Dhansiri ...	295	296	9	24	33	30·5	81·0	111·5
	15. Hatikuli ...	218	249	4	17	21	18·3	68·2	86·5
	Total ...	4,554	4,496	210	227	437	46·1	50·4	96·5

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Nazira ...	8	1	1	...	...	...	4	14
	2. Suffry ...	13	4	31	1	1	...	23	73
	3. Thirwalbari ...	...	4	3	...	...	...	7	14
	4. Rajmai ...	19	4	34	...	5	...	27	89
	5. Maduri ...	1	...	8	...	1	...	5	15
Jorhát ...	6. Bheluguri ...	3	...	2	...	...	...	6	11
	7. Dehingapar ...	6	2	5	1	...	...	7	21
	8. Kathalguri ...	15	...	3	2	...	...	10	30
	9 Meleng ...	4	...	8	...	...	...	5	17
	10. Nahorbari ...	12	...	1	1	...	...	1	15
	11. Bandersalia ...	3	...	5	1	...	...	3	12
	12. Sykotta ...	9	6	19	1	...	...	14	49
	13. Daklangia ...	5	2	7	4	...	...	5	23
Golághát ...	14. Dhansiri ...	7	2	11	...	6	...	7	33
	15. Hatikuli ...	...	7	9	4	...	...	1	21
	Total ...	105	32	147	15	13	...	125	437

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
dr ...	16. Bamanpukri ...	329	352	13	17	30	39·5	48·2	87·7
	17. Napuk ...	372	413	5	26	31	13·4	62·9	76·3
	18. Hingrajan ...	700	675	16	32	48	22·8	47·4	70·2
hát ...	19. Cinnatoli ...	96	104	10	3	13	104·1	28·8	132·9
lághát ...	20. Ghiladhari ...	204	261	15	...	15	73·5	...	73·5
	21. Gurunga ...	174	182	11	6	17	63·2	32·9	96·1
	22. Makrong ...	483	456	22	12	34	45·5	26·3	71·8
	Total	2,358	2,443	92	96	188	39·0	39·2	78·2

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
ladr ...	16. Bamanpukri ...	1	...	10	3	1	...	15	30
	17. Napuk ...	2	3	11	2	1	...	12	31
	18. Hingrajan ...	3	2	10	1	9	...	23	48
Jorhát ...	19. Cinnatoli ...	5	...	1	2	...	...	5	13
Golâghât ...	20. Ghiladhari ...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
	21. Gurunga ...	1	5	2	5	...	...	4	17
	22. Makrong ...	18	...	7	2	...	...	7	34
	Total ...	45	10	41	15	11	...	66	188

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act Population taken together.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Jorhât ...	23. Gabruparbat ...	648	683	15	57	72	23·1	83·4	106·5
	24. Dessoi ...	752	781	57	14	71	75·8	17·9	93·7
	25. Hunwal ...	208	179	10	4	14	48·0	22·3	70·3
	26. Moriani ...	1,348	1,405	91	66	157	67·5	46·9	114·4
	27. Koliapani ...	323	304	45	4	49	139·3	13·1	152·4
Golâghât ...	28. Deering ...	311	270	37	16	53	118·9	59·2	178·1
	Total ...	3,590	3,622	255	161	416	71·0	44·4	115·4

Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Jorhát ...	23. Gabruparbat...	...	...	19	6	...	...	47	72
	24. Dessoi ...	52	2	1	6	...	...	10	71
	25. Hunwal ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	11	14
	26. Moriani ...	78	4	27	2	...	...	46	157
	27. Koliapani ...	43	...	...	...	...	...	6	49
Golághát ...	28. Deering ...	7	1	23	7	5	...	10	53
	Total ...	182	8	70	21	5	...	130	416

The following action was taken in respect to the unhealthy gardens in this district:

(1) *Nazira.*—The high mortality on this garden occurred principally in the depôt on the estate, through which a very large number of coolies for the Assam Company's gardens pass. The mortality amongst the actual resident population appears not to have exceeded 7 per cent. per annum. The Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner in thinking that a committee on this garden is unnecessary. The Commissioner has been requested to see that the manager of the garden arranges for an uncontaminable water-supply. If he (the manager) fails to do this, and the estate continues to be unhealthy, steps will be taken to close it to labourers.

(2) *Suffry.*—On this garden the rate of mortality was just over 8 per cent., 13 deaths being due to cholera. The sanitary arrangements are reported to be satisfactory. The Chief Commissioner has approved the Commissioner's suggestion to await the result of the first half-year's returns for 1895 before deciding whether a committee should be held. A proper hospital should be provided at once on the garden.

(3) *Thirwalbari.*—The garden has not been unhealthy during the preceding three years, and the mortality, although over 7 per cent., was under 8 per cent. The employer has carried out the recommendations made at previous inspections regarding the improvement of the coolie-lines and their drainage, the protection of the water-supply, and the entertainment of a qualified native doctor. There does not appear to be any neglect on the part of the management, and the Chief Commissioner concurs with the Commissioner in thinking that no further action is necessary.

(4) *Rajmai.*—The high mortality was due to an epidemic of influenza and cholera. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the Commissioner's proposal to hold a committee on this garden if the death-rate for the first half-year of 1895 exceeds 3½ per cent.

(5) *Maduri.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1892 and 1893. A committee was held by the Deputy Commissioner, and the garden has been closed to imported labour.

(6) *Bheluguri.*—The high death-rate of this garden was due to cholera, and influenza and its complications. Otherwise the garden would not have been in the unhealthy list. The sanitary arrangements are reported to be good. No special orders beyond that for the entertainment of a qualified medical officer have been issued.

(7) *Dehingapar.*—The high death-rate was due to an outbreak of cholera. The sanitary condition of the estate is reported to be good. Beyond requiring the entertainment of a duly qualified medical officer, no action has been considered necessary.

(8) *Kathalguri.*—The high mortality was due to an epidemic of cholera, 15 out of 30 deaths being due to that cause. Subject to the enforcement of the Civil Surgeon's recommendations regarding the removal of cattle sheds from the coolie-lines and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer, no special action was considered necessary.

(9) *Meleng.*—This garden has not been unhealthy during the preceding three years. The death-rate was 7·28 per cent. Excluding four deaths from cholera, the garden would have escaped being unhealthy. The sanitary and other arrangements are excellent. No special orders were considered necessary.

(10) *Nahorbari.*—This garden has not been unhealthy for the past three years. Out of a total of 15 deaths, 12 were due to cholera. The Civil Surgeon's recommenda-

tions regarding the improvement of the water-supply and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer will be carried out.

(11) *Bandersalia.*—This estate was unhealthy in 1893. From the inspection report it appears that bad batches of coolies have been imported for this garden. The manager of the garden has been informed that, if he does not take advantage of the opportunity of having his coolies medically examined either in the recruiting districts or at Dhubri, the Chief Commissioner will have to order an enquiry with a view to closing this garden to Act labourers. In view of the recent orders passed on the Civil Surgeon's inspection report under section 130 of the Emigration Act, that the garden should in future be closed to new importations of North-Western Provinces and Oudh coolies, the Chief Commissioner decided that a committee on this garden was unnecessary at present. A committee will, however, be held if the first half-yearly returns for 1895 show a high mortality.

(12) *Sykotta.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to hold a committee on the garden if the first half-yearly returns for 1895 show a high mortality.

(13) *Daklangia.*—The high death-rate for 1894 was due to cholera. The Civil Surgeon recommends the entertainment of a duly qualified medical officer. Beyond seeing that his recommendation is carried out, no special action was considered necessary.

(14) *Dhansiri.*—This estate was unhealthy in 1893. The Civil Surgeon's inspection having been held under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, a definite finding would have saved the necessity of a committee. No such finding having been recorded, the Chief Commissioner has approved the proposal made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to hold a committee on this garden.

(15) *Hatikuli.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to order a committee to be held on this garden if the mortality among Act coolies for the first half-year of 1895 exceeds 7 per cent. per annum.

(16) *Bamanpukri.*—This garden has not hitherto been unhealthy, and the high mortality which occurred amongst non-Act coolies only was due to an outbreak of influenza and its sequelæ. There seems to have been no want of due care and caution on the part of the employer. No action has been considered necessary. The Civil Surgeon's recommendations in regard to the improvement of the hospital building should be given effect to.

(17) *Napuk.*—The garden was unhealthy on non-Act population only. No special action seemed called for. As recommended by the Civil Surgeon, a properly fitted hospital should be provided, and the water supply improved.

(18) *Hingrajan.*—There are no Act coolies on the garden, and the mortality was only just over 7 per cent. per annum. The Civil Surgeon reports the arrangements on the garden to be satisfactory, and no special action has been considered necessary.

(19) *Cinnatoli.*—This is a small out-garden of Kathalguri. Out of 13 deaths, 5 were due to cholera. The sanitary arrangements are fairly good. The garden has not been unhealthy before. No special action seemed called for.

(20) *Ghiladhari.*—The mortality on this garden was just over 7 per cent. on non-Act labourers alone. The sanitary arrangements are reported to be fairly good, and most of the recommendations made at the previous inspection have been carried out. The Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts in thinking that a committee is unnecessary.

(21) *Gurunga.*—There were only four deaths among Act coolies, and the garden was unhealthy on non-Act population only. The Civil Surgeon's recommendations for the proper protection of the water-supply, the provision of a suitable dispensary, and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer have all been carried out, and nothing further has been considered necessary.

(22) *Makrong.*—There seems to have been much neglect on the part of the employer in providing proper house accommodation, hospital, and water-supply on this garden. The Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts in thinking that no committee on this garden is necessary, but the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar has been directed to consider whether action should not be taken with reference to the manager's failure to comply with rules 127, 141, and 143 of the Chief Commissioner's rules under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act.

(23) *Gabrupárbat.*—The death-rate among both Act and non-Act coolies was high, and appears to be due to a local complaint, called Nága sores, which accounted for no less than 23 out of a total of 72 deaths. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the proposal made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts to hold a committee on this garden.

(24) *Dessoi.*—The high mortality on this garden was entirely due to an outbreak of cholera, which accounted for no less than 52 out of 71 deaths. No action was considered necessary beyond requiring a duly qualified medical officer to be entertained.

(25) *Hunwal.*—The total number of deaths on Act and non-Act population taken together was 14, showing a death rate of just over 7 per cent. The number of deaths among Act coolies was less than 10. The lines are good in all respects. A well is under construction. No special action was considered necessary.

(26) *Moriani.*—The high death-rate on the garden was due to an epidemic of cholera, which caused 78 out of a total of 157 deaths. No special action has been considered necessary beyond requiring the management to entertain a properly qualified medical man.

(27) *Koliapani.*—The high death-rate was due entirely to cholera, 43 out of a total of 49 deaths being attributable to that disease. Action was confined to requiring compliance with the Civil Surgeon's recommendations as to the construction of a properly furnished hospital and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer.

(28) *Deering.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1893. A committee was held on it on the 15th November 1894. The garden has been closed to Act labourers generally.

The following action was also taken in 1894 in respect to the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1893 :

Banfera.—A committee was held, and, in accordance with its recommendations, the garden has been closed to the importation of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Behar.

Cinnamara.—The result of the inspection made under section 130 by the Civil Surgeon was that it was not considered necessary to close the garden to imported labourers or to any class of them.

Dhekiajuli.—The committee held on this garden found that the garden was unfit for the residence of newly-imported labourers of other than certain castes set forth by the committee, and the garden has been closed to future importation of coolies not of these castes.

Kheremia.—The committee held on this garden arrived at the conclusion that the estate was not unfit for the residence of labourers of any class hitherto employed on the estate.

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

55. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Lakhimpur district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Ledo ...	752	577	47	25	72	62·5	43 3	105·8
	2. Tikak ...	289	214	22	16	38	76·1	74·7	150·8
	3. Margherita ...	280	231	9	11	20	32·1	47·6	79·7
	4. Chaulkhoa ...	175	187	8	12	20	45·7	64·1	109·8
	5. Powai ...	198	381	9	16	25	45·4	41·9	87·3
	6. Hatiali ...	335	312	9	15	24	26·8	48·0	74·8
	7. Nadua ...	162	140	8	7	15	49·3	50·0	99·3
	8. Nahartoli ...	195	225	8	12	20	41·0	53 3	94·3
	Total	2,386	2,267	120	114	234	50·3	50·3	100·6

Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Ledo ...	3	2	8	1	2	9	47	72
	2. Tikak ...	1	9	8	2	...	4	14	38
	3. Margherita ...	3	1	8	...	...	4	4	20
	4. Chaulkhoa ...	1	1	12	1	...	...	5	20
	5. Powai ...	7	...	3	1	5	...	9	25
	6. Hatiali ...	2	...	9	1	6	...	6	24
	7. Nadua ...	1	...	1	2	...	...	11	15
	8. Nahartoli ...	3	8	4	...	1	1	3	20
	Total	21	21	53	8	14	18	99	234

Unhealthy on non-Act Population.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	9. Rohmoria Balijan	278	321	10	15	25	35·9	46·7	82·6
	10. Bisakupi ...	764	770	23	33	56	30·1	42·8	72·9
	11. Lepetkatta ...	273	326	13	14	27	47·6	42·9	90·5
	Total ...	1,315	1,417	46	62	108	34·9	43·7	78·6

Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	9. Rohmoria Balijan	1	1	5	8	1	...	9	25
	10. Bisakupi ...	5	...	17	18	...	8	8	56
	11. Lepetkatta ...	1	1	4	1	...	1	19	27
	Total ...	7	2	26	27	1	9	36	108

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The following action has been taken in this district :

(1) *Ledo and* (2) *Tikak.*—These estates (which are coal-mines) have been on the unhealthy list for several years past. They were both specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Act ; but, the Civil Surgeon having omitted to record any definite finding, the Chief Commissioner has sanctioned the proposal of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts that a committee should be held on both these estates to determine whether the estates, or any portion of them, are unfit for the residence of labourers or of any class or classes of labourers.

(3) *Margherita.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1893. The mortality in 1894 was over 7, but under 8, per cent. A committee was held on the garden on the 9th November 1894. The receipt of the first half-yearly figures for 1895 will be awaited before a decision is arrived at whether any further action is necessary.

(4) *Chaulkhoa.*—On the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon, made in a special inspection report under section 130, this garden has been closed to new importations of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. It will again be inspected by the Civil Surgeon.

(5) *Powai.*—The garden is a new one, and the lines are in new clearances, a fact which no doubt accounts for much of the mortality. At the suggestion of the Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner has decided that it will be sufficient if the garden is shortly inspected with a view to ascertaining whether the Civil Surgeon's recommendations in regard to the feeding of coolies on the hotel system and the construction of *pucca* wells have been given effect to.

(6) *Hatiali.*—The Civil Surgeon has recommended an improved system of drainage and the erection of a better class of coolie houses. No action was considered necessary beyond requiring compliance with the Civil Surgeon's recommendations.

(7) *Nadua.*—The unhealthiness of this garden was due to the importation of unsuitable coolies and to the want of sufficient care in their feeding, housing, and medical treatment after their arrival on the garden. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the recommendation made by the Civil Surgeon under section 130, which is supported by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, to close this garden to new importations of coolies from Behar.

(8) *Nahartoli.*—The Chief Commissioner has accepted the Commissioner's suggestion that the garden need not be closed to Chota Nagpur coolies, as recommended by the Civil Surgeon, but that it should again be inspected by the Civil Surgeon with a view to seeing whether his other recommendations in regard to the introduction of the hotel system of feeding coolies and the improvement of the lines have been carried out.

(9) *Rohmoria Balijan.*—This garden was unhealthy only on non-Act population. The Civil Surgeon's recommendations for the better care of children and better arrangements for ascertaining cases of sickness among the coolies should be carried out.

(10) *Bisakupi.*—No special action was found necessary beyond requiring that greater care should be taken of children.

(11) *Lepetkatta.*—Subject to the enforcement of the Civil Surgeon's recommendations as to the improvement of the lines and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer, no special action was considered necessary.

The following action was also taken in 1894 in respect to the gardens mentioned below, the first two of which were unhealthy in 1893, and the last two of which were unhealthy in 1892 :

Makum.—A committee held on this estate recorded the opinion that the mortality was mainly due to cholera imported into the garden, and that, in view of the improved state of the garden, it was not unfit for the residence of labourers.

Greenwood.—In view of the improved state of the garden, and the low mortality in 1894 up to the date of the holding of the committee, the committee held on this estate were of opinion that it was not unfit for the residence of labourers.

Dikhari.—A committee held on this garden came to the conclusion that it was not unfit for the residence of labourers.

Hulmari.—The Chief Commissioner accepted the finding of the committee that the estate was unfit for the residence of coolies from the North-Western Provinces.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns and liable to inspection.

56. The number of gardens shown on the inspection register increased from 805 in the previous year to 826, and the number submitting returns (*i.e.*, those on which *any* Act coolies or more than 50 other persons are employed) from 727 to 747. The returns are said to have been submitted with fair punctuality by employers as a general rule, though it is reported from some districts that there were a few cases of unjustifiable delay.

Classification of gardens according to the coolies employed, and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

57. The following statement shows the number of gardens classified, district by district, according to the classes of labourers employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number which were inspected during the year :

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
		Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.			
	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.
Number of gardens	147	52	1	6	206	80	43	2	..	125	10	6	2	14	32	72	6	5	5	88
„ sending returns 50 and 51 ..	147	52	1	..	200	80	43	1	..	124	10	6	2	..	18	72	6	1	..	79
„ inspected once	139	51	..	..	190	75	42	1	..	118	3	3	..	..	6	65	6	..	..	71
„ „ twice	4	..	..	..	4	4	1	..	..	5	3	..	..	..	3	7	..	.	..	7
„ „ thrice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total number inspected in 1894 ..	143	51	..	..	194	79	43	1	..	123	7	3	..	..	10	72	6	..	..	78
„ „ „ 1893 ..	*148*	*24*	..	..	*172*	*73*	*43*	*1*	..	*117*	*11*	*5*	..	..	*16*	*73*	*6*	..	..	*79*

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
		Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.					Non-Act.			
	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Over 50.	Under 50.	No coolies on estate.	Total.
Number of gardens	37	6	2	10	55	142	10	6	19	177	124	4	1	14	143	612	127	19	68	826
„ sending returns 50 and 51 ..	37	6	2	..	45	142	10	..	..	152	124	4	1	..	129	612	127	8	..	747
„ inspected once	31	6	..	..	37	130	10	..	..	140	86	4	1	..	91	529	122	2	..	653
„ „ twice	3	..	..	..	3	12	..	..	..	12	28	..	..	..	28	61	1	..	..	62
„ „ thrice	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	10	14	..	..	..	14
Total number inspected in 1894 ..	37	6	..	..	43	142	10	..	.	152	124	4	1	..	129	604	123	2	..	729
„ „ 1893 ..	*35*	*7*	*1*	..	*43*	*147*	*8*	..	..	*155*	*136*	*3*	..	..	*136*	*620*	*96*	*2*	..	*718*

Gardens which are required to submit returns are also liable to inspection, the total number of gardens so liable being 739 ; of these 729 were inspected during the year. In Darrang, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur all the estates liable to inspection were actually inspected ; in the other districts a few remained uninspected at the end of the year, but it is reported in all cases that they were inspected shortly after the close of the year. This is so far satisfactory ; but the Chief Commissioner regrets to notice that there was a falling off in the number of gardens inspected twice or oftener during the year. The attention of Deputy Commissioners will be directed to the necessity for holding second and third inspections more frequently.

The following table shows the number of gardens inspected, respectively, by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Civil Surgeons, and other inspecting officers :

District.	Deputy Commissioners.		Assistant Commissioners.		Civil Surgeons.		Other inspecting agency.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
Cachar ...	55	60	64	71	25	35	28	28
Sylhet ...	7	9	98	101	16	3	6	15
Kámrúp ...	12	7	...	...	12	3	...	...
Darrang ...	29	25	24	28	32	29	7	...
Nowgong ...	12	21	...	10	15	18	33	...
Sibságar ...	19	23	100	40	41	23	28	78
Lakhimpur ...	48	35	17	39	47	52	46	41

On the whole, each class of officers took a fair share of the work.

System of inspection.

58. The following revised system of inspection has been introduced since the beginning of the current year (1895). As soon as possible after the close of each year, the Deputy Commissioner is required to classify the tea-gardens in his district as follows :

(1) Healthy or first-class gardens ;

(2) Second-class gardens ;

(3) Unhealthy gardens.

In the list of first-class gardens those gardens are to be included which have not been on the unhealthy list for the last three completed years. Gardens, which, though not unhealthy in the previous year, have been unhealthy in either or both of the preceding two years, are to be classed as second-class gardens. The definition of an unhealthy garden is that given above at the beginning of paragraph 48. All unhealthy gardens have to be inspected twice a year by the Civil Surgeon or District Medical Officer. On the other hand, all first-class gardens have, save in exceptional circumstances, such as the outbreak of an epidemic, to be visited by the non-medical inspecting staff. Second-class gardens have also ordinarily to be inspected by non-medical Inspectors, but the Deputy Commissioner is authorised to arrange for their inspection, in suitable cases, by the Civil Surgeon. In inspecting unhealthy gardens, the inspecting officer is required to pay attention to each of the points specified in the inspection report form prepared specially for unhealthy gardens, and, in inspecting second-class gardens, to the points specified in the ordinary inspection report form. The inspection of first-class gardens may be more general in their nature, a brief memorandum of the result of the inspection, together with certain necessary statistical information, only being required. In second and subsequent inspections, during the year, of second-class and unhealthy gardens attention is to be directed principally to particular points calling for enquiry on the garden visited.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

59. There is nothing special to notice as regards the relations between employers and labourers, which continued to be generally satisfactory during the year. A few cases of petty assaults by employers on labourers, of insubordination and rioting on the part of labourers, and of complaints to the authorities by labourers in regard to their treatment by their employers are described in the district reports, but they are none of them of sufficient importance to be noticed in this Report.

Relations between the garden population and the villagers.

60. Notwithstanding occasional cases of friction, it is reported from all districts that the tea-garden population are on excellent terms with the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages.

General condition of the labourers.

61. As regards the general condition of the labourers, there is nothing to add to what has been said in paragraph 31 of the Report. The following table shows the proportion which the adult labour force bears to the area under tea cultivation in the province. Generally speaking, the supply of labour has increased considerably in recent years in proportion to the work required of the labourers. In 1894, however, the increase in the labour force was not equal to the increased area brought under tea cultivation.

	The area under tea cultivation.	Total adult labour force (annual mean), (Act and non-Act).
	Acres.	
1881	158,427	124,449
1882	178,851	131,405
1883	189,453	153,739
1884	189,852	177,622
1885	197,510	188,262
1886	203,993	192,076
1887	211,079	203,023
1888	216,676	219,861
1889	227,249	241,297
1890	231,038	250,113
1891	241,823	265,315
1892	247,192	283,819
1893	254,126	302,558
1894	268,796	310,767

Settlement of time-expired labourers on the land.

62. The following figures show the amount of land held direct under Government by time-expired immigrant coolies in the various districts in the province :

District.	1893. Acres.	1894. Acres.
Cachar	9,135	10,438
Sylhet	1,604	2,043
Kámrúp	92	94
Darrang	8,648	3,094
Nowgong	2,241	2,800
Sibságar	11,908	13,131
Lakhimpur	8,288	10,675
Total	41,916	42,275

This statement does not include all lands held by ex-garden coolies, but only lands held direct under Government. Excluding the figures for Darrang, where a large decrease is reported, the result is that 5,913 acres of such lands were taken up during the year by time-expired coolies. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang, in explanation of the decrease in that district, writes—"Last year's figure must have been given in *bighas*; year by year more land is being taken up by time-expired coolies." This point will be further enquired into by the Chief Commissioner, as the Deputy Commissioner's explanation seems to be of doubtful accuracy, the figures having been reported in acres for several years past, and it being well known to the Chief Commissioner that large areas in the Darrang district are occupied by persons of the immigrant classes.

Time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.

63. The following statement shows details of time-expired garden coolies treated in Government dispensaries in the several districts of the province :

District.	Number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.	Nature of diseases.							Number of days treated.	Average period of detention, in days.
		Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Other causes.	Total.		
Cachar ...	276	...	35	45	52	70	74	276	7,396	26·8
Sylhet ...	199	1	58	24	32	7	77	199	1,803	9·0
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	71	...	1	13	4	30	23	71	1,527	21·5
Nowgong ...	39	...	1	2	1	17	18	39	1,166	29·8
Sibságar ...	153	5	15	19	15	26	73	153	3,259	21·3
Lakhimpur ...	72	...	2	2	9	...	59	72	1,403	19·5
Total of 1894 ...	810	6	112	105	113	150	324	810	16,554	20·4
„ „ *1893* ...	*792*	*15*	*88*	*114*	*94*	*141*	*340*	*792*	*15,174*	*19·1*

The number of persons treated is not, the Chief Commissioner considers, excessive, considering the large number of time-expired immigrants who have made their home in this province.

64. The statement below shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1894-95:

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.	Heads.	Assam figures.	Bengal figures.	Total.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Medical	....	....	....	Salaries of depôt establishments, (including native doctors, hospital assistants, compounders, dressers, clerks, and menials, &c.) ..	9,741 8 5	1,344 6 11	11,085 15 4
Contractors' license fees under section 13	3,481 12 0	300 0 0	3,781 12 0	Supplies and Services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs)	8,021 6 0	62 15 3	8,084 5 3
Recruiters' license fees under section 24	....	249 0 0	249 0 0				
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68	....	12,714 12 0	12,714 12 0	Contingent charges	1,242 15 8	59 0 0	1,301 15 8
Fees for licenses of inland steamers and native boats under section 90.	....	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	Grants to dispensaries	4,470 0 0	....	4,470 0 0
Rates under section 109	56,632 8 0	....	56,632 8 0	Inspectors, embarkation agents, and other officers	4,758 9 6	12,571 0 7	17,329 10 1
Fees for use of debarkation depôts.	4,885 12 9	....	4,885 12 9	Clerks and servants..	8,848 6 4	6,(35 11 6	14,684 1 10
Diet, &c., charge recovered ..	2,076 12 3	....	2,076 12 3	Travelling allowance	7,843 6 0	1,173 10 0	9,017 0 0
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospital	1,198 9 0	....	1,198 9 0	Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit establishments, refunds, pensions)	5,437 6 9	2,634 7 4	8,071 14 1
Cash recoveries	....	....	....	Deficit in the Bengal portion of the fund .. .. » ..	+9,117 7 7	−9,117 7 7	....
Fines and miscellaneous.. ..	739 7 8	....	739 7 8				
Fees for labourers under sections 112 and 112B	2,874 0 0	....	2,874 0 0				
Total	71,888 13 8	14,763 12 0	86,652 9 8	Total	59,481 2 3	14,763 12 0	74,244 14 3

The receipts exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 12,407-11-5; and, as the fund is at present in a satisfactory financial condition, the Chief Commissioner will consider whether the capitation rates levied from employers under section 109 of the Act are capable of reduction.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

P. G. MELITUS,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The 17th September 1895.

STATEMENT.

Return showing the Statistics of the Labour Force of the

Classes of labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during the year 1894.											
		Imported.			Otherwise than by importation.								Total of columns 2 and 14.
		By contractors.	By garden sardars.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.	Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contracts.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cachar — Act I-labourers (adults)	7,305	827	818	..	163	876	168	73	..	..	..	..	2,925	10,230
Cachar — Non-Act labourers Adults	58,582	..	..	3,267	..	..	1,268	..	1,603	3,858	..	1,139	11,135	69,717
Cachar — Non-Act labourers Children	40,932	..	..	616	..	..	82	..	3	654	2,619	..	3,974	44,906
Total	106,819	827	818	3,883	163	876	1,518	73	1,606	4,512	2,619	1,139	18,034	124,853
Sylhet — Act I-labourers (adults)	8,417	1,108	909	..	3,709	755	202	48	..	..	..	..	6,821	15,238
Sylhet — Non-Act labourers Adults	51,127	..	..	5,589	..	..	1,773	..	2,912	4,196	..	1,105	15,575	66,702
Sylhet — Non-Act labourers Children	40,626	..	..	3,075	..	..	739	..	..	1,145	2,656	..	7,615	48,241
Total	100,170	1,108	909	8,664	3,709	755	2,804	48	2,912	5,341	2,656	1 105	30,011	130,181
Surma Valley — Act I-labourers (adults)	15,722	1,935	1,727	..	3,872	1,631	460	121	..	..	..	..	9,746	25,468
Surma Valley — Non-Act labourers Adults	109,709	..	..	8,856	..	..	3,041	..	4,515	8,654	..	2,214	28,710	136,419
Surma Valley — Non-Act labourers Children	81,558	..	..	3,691	..	..	821	..	3	1,799	5,275	..	11,589	93,147
Total	206,989	1,935	1,727	12,547	3,872	1,631	4,322	121	4,518	9,853	5,275	2,214	48,045	255,034
Kámrúp — Act I-labourers (adults)	785	44	105	..	7	..	35	2	..	..	..	..	193	978
Kámrúp — Non-Act labourers Adults	1,305	..	..	47	..	..	83	..	120	484	..	18	752	2,057
Kámrúp — Non-Act labourers Children	1,102	..	..	39	..	..	19	..	..	148	104	..	310	1,412
Total	3,192	44	105	86	7	..	137	2	120	632	104	18	1,255	4,447
Darrang — Act I-labourers (adults)	23,260	3,334	1,106	..	3,125	1,175	174	41	..	..	..	..	8,955	32,215
Darrang — Non-Act labourers Adults	11,495	..	..	239	..	..	187	..	5,514	3,950	..	378	10,318	21,813
Darrang — Non-Act labourers Children	16,767	..	..	932	..	..	74	..	..	416	959	..	2,381	19,148
Total	51,522	3,334	1,106	1,221	3,125	1,175	435	41	5,514	4,366	959	378	21,654	73,176
Nowgong — Act I-labourers (adults)	3,943	1,097	298	..	218	117	87	36	..	..	..	..	1,853	5,796
Nowgong — Non-Act labourers Adults	6,474	..	..	174	..	..	67	..	976	1,921	..	125	3,263	9,737
Nowgong — Non-Act labourers Children	5,941	..	..	384	..	..	54	..	..	124	338	..	900	6,841
Total	16,358	1,097	298	558	218	117	208	36	976	2,045	338	125	6,016	22,374
Sibságar — Act I-labourers (adults)	38,564	3,547	3,778	..	3,190	4,159	569	181	..	..	..	..	15,424	53,988
Sibságar — Non-Act labourers Adults	27,513	..	..	907	..	..	307	..	9,316	3,485	..	921	14,936	42,449
Sibságar — Non-Act labourers Children	42,920	..	..	3,145	..	..	133	..	..	357	2,987	..	6,622	49,542
Total	108,997	3,547	3,778	4,052	3,190	4,159	1,009	181	9,316	3,842	2,987	921	36,982	145,979
Lakhimpur — Act I-labourers (adults)	37,521	4,023	2,729	..	2,729	1,565	585	151	..	..	..	..	11,782	49,303
Lakhimpur — Non-Act labourers Adults	22,852	..	..	1,710	..	..	212	..	7,648	3,690	..	1,032	13,122	35,974
Lakhimpur — Non-Act labourers Children	30,845	..	..	2,633	..	..	106	..	..	158	2,426	..	5,383	36,228
Total	91,218	4,023	2,729	4,343	2,729	1,565	903	151	7,648	3,848	2,426	1,032	30,287	122,105
Brahmaputra Valley. — Act I-labourers (adults)	104,073	12,045	8,016	..	9,279	7,016	1,450	411	..	..	..	..	38,217	142,290
Brahmaputra Valley. — Non-Act labourers Adults	69,639	..	..	3,127	..	..	886	..	23,574	12,930	..	2,474	42,991	112,630
Brahmaputra Valley. — Non-Act labourers Children	97,575	..	..	7,153	..	..	446	..	..	1,203	6,814	..	15,616	113,171
Total	271,287	12,045	8,016	10,280	9,279	7,016	2,782	411	23,574	14,133	6,814	2,474	96,794	368,081
Total for the province. — Act I-labourers (adults)	119,795	13,980	9,743	..	13,141	8,647	1,910	532	..	..	..	..	47,973	167,748
Total for the province. — Non-Act labourers Adults	179,348	..	..	11,983	..	..	3,927	..	28,089	20,984	..	4,718	69,701	249,049
Total for the province. — Non-Act labourers Children	179,133	..	..	10,824	..	..	1,467	..	3	3,002	12,089	..	27,185	206,318
Grand total	478,276*	13,980	9,743	22,807	13,141	8,647	7,104	532	28,092	23,986	12,089	4,71°	144,889	623,115

* The difference of 17 labourers between this entry and that shown in column 31 of the statement at the end of the Report for 1893, against the heading "Grand total,"
† This includes 13 contracts cancelled under section 11A. One cancelled in Lakhimpur has not been included in this return.

Tea Gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1894.

Deductions made during the year 1894.																	Number remaining at the end of the year 1894.	Strength on 1st July 1894.	Annual strength.		Death-rate per mille.
Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	Deaths.		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Cancelment under sections 111A, 111B, 129, 140, 140A, or 177.	Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 129.	Suspended under section 120.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.			First half-year.	Second half-year.	
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.																
16	17	18		19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
168	..	191	252	464	559	..	..	..	41	110	..	..	1,426	1	32	3,244	6,986	7,281	7,283	7,123	61·5
1,268	4,049	796	925	1,468	1,689	..	166	672	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,981	58,738	60,219	59,400	59,477	28·9
82	850	184	317	453	139	1,139	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,164	41,742	40,961	40,946	41,351	12·1
1,518	4,899	1,171	1,494	2,383	2,337	1,139	166	672	41	110	..	..	1,426	1	32	17,389	107,464	108,441	107,630	107,952	24·7
352	..	227	219	628	372	..	..	..	6	75	..	..	3,956	..	11	5,826	9,412	9,491	8,954	9,451	48·4
859	3,553	716	969	2,534	1,939	..	2,669	494	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,733	52,969	52,460	51,793	52,714	32·2
481	1,367	344	463	1,186	822	1,105	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,768	42,473	41,965	41,295	42,219	19·2
1,692	4,920	1,287	1,651	4,348	3,113	1,105	2,669	494	6	75	..	..	3,956	..	11	25,327	104,854	103,916	102,043	104,385	28·4
520	..	418	471	1,092	911	..	..	..	47	185	..	..	5,332	1	43	9,070	16,398	16,752	16,237	16,575	54·1
2,127	7,602	1,512	1,891	4,000	3,578	..	2,835	1,166	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,714	111,705	112,979	111,194	112,112	30·4
563	2,217	528	780	1,669	961	2,244	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,952	84,215	82,626	82,242	83,570	15·7
3,210	9,819	2,158	3,145	6,731	5,450	2,244	2,835	1,166	47	185	..	..	5,332	1	43	42,736	212,318	212,357	209,673	212,337	26·5
40	..	20	27	16	36	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	138	..	10	297	681	777	781	729	62·6
10	351	22	38	62	72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	555	1,502	1,586	1,445	1,544	35·8
2	294	18	18	13	17	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	290	1,122	1,133	1,117	1,127	32·0
52	555	60	83	91	125	18	..	..	..	10	..	..	138	..	10	1,142	3,305	3,496	3,344	3,400	42·3
174	..	402	478	476	401	..	..	..	9	129	..	..	7,171	1	44	9,285	22,930	22,997	23,128	22,964	38·1
187	3,161	182	182	360	225	..	2,274	978	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,549	14,264	13,165	13,730	14,714	26·0
74	923	176	224	46	79	378	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,900	17,248	17,679	17,223	17,463	25·0
435	4,084	760	884	882	705	378	2,274	978	9	129	..	..	7,171	1	44	18,734	54,442	53,841	53,681	55,141	30·2
90	..	131	147	151	130	..	..	..	..	82	..	..	937	..	4	1,672	4,124	3,765	3,854	3,944	71·3
48	2,370	127	159	107	122	..	201	84	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,218	6,519	7,311	7,192	7,215	39·7
50	372	89	114	64	119	125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	933	5,908	6,047	5,994	5,977	33·9
188	2,742	347	420	322	371	125	201	84	..	82	..	..	937	..	4	5,823	16,551	17,123	17,040	17,137	44·8
569	..	811	1,163	556	669	..	..	..	13	160	..	..	12,079	2	902	16,929	37,059	37,071	37,817	37,065	52·9
311	4,476	466	518	475	550	..	1,277	2,612	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,065	31,784	3 ,702	30,607	32,743	31·0
136	1,990	561	732	192	195	921	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,727	44,815	45,963	43,991	44,939	25·9
1,016	6,466	1,838	2,418	1,223	1,394	921	1,277	2,612	13	160	..	..	12,079	2	902	32,821	113,658	115,836	112,416	114,747	37·3
548	..	774	931	624	571	..	..	..	..	457	..	..	9,992	2	49	13,948	35,955	36,795	37,158	36,075	46·6
198	4,823	379	429	411	550	..	2,058	1,208	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,976	26,598	28,313	25,577	27,450	28·0
138	1,985	404	535	187	183	1,032	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,474	31,754	32,193	31,519	31,973	29·5
884	6,808	1,497	1,895	1,232	1,284	1,032	2,058	1,208	..	457	..	..	9,992	2	49	28,398	93,707	97,291	94,254	95,499	35·6
1,421	..	2,138	2,751	1,803	1,807	..	..	..	22	838	..	..	30,317	5	1,009	42,131	100,149	101,405	102,739	100,777	48·1
754	15,181	1,116	1,376	1,415	1,479	..	5,810	4,882	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,013	80,667	80,667	78,153	83,667	30·0
400	5,474	1,248	1,623	512	593	2,174	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,324	109,847	102,115	99,845	101,481	26·4
2,575	20,655	4,502	5,700	3,750	3,879	2,474	5,810	4,882	22	838	..	.	30,317	5	1,909	86,418	251,663	250,187	250,737	2 5,927	35·9
1,941	..	2,556	3,222	2,915	2,718	..	..	..	69	1,023	..	..	35,699	6	1,052	51,291	116,547	118,157	118,976	117,372	48·9
2,851	22,783	2,623	3,220	5,415	5,6 7	..	8,645	6,043	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56,677	1 2 372	1 1,346	1 9,347	1 .,559	3·3
963	7,691	1,770	2,403	2,151	1,554	4,718	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,2 6	135,062	135 041	132,057	1 .,..	22·7
5,755	30,474	6,960	8,845	10,481	9,329	4,718	8,645	6,048	69	1,023	..	..	35,699	6	1,052	129,131	493,981	502,544	490,410	498,262	31·9

is due to the correction of figures made by the Manager of the Kulikusi garden in Nowgong, who submitted revised returns for 1894.

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REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

1895.

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1. DHUBRI.
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REPORT

ON

LABOUR IMMIGRATION INTO ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION.

THIS Report deals only with the immigration of labourers imported into this province for labour on tea-estates and a few coal mines, saw-mills, etc. It does not take account of the immigrants who enter the province each year for employment on public works, or of the large numbers of labourers imported during the last two or three years for the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. No statistics are obtained by this Administration regarding immigrants of the latter classes; they usually come to the province for the working season only, and then return to their homes.

Provincial figures of immigration.

The following table shows the immigration of all classes of coolies imported into the province for labour on tea and other estates during the past two years:

	1894.	1895.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Act ... Sardári adults ...	9,743	8,988	− 755	− 7·7
Act ... Contractors' „ ...	13,980	21,847	+ 7,867	+ 54·9
Non-Act adults	11,983	25,666	+13,683	+114·1
Total	35,706	56,501	+20,795	+ 58·2
Children	10,824	16,336	+ 5,512	+ 50·9
Grand total	46,530	72,837	+26,307	+ 56·5

In this table, and in the subsequent paragraphs of this report, except in paragraph 7, the term "Act adults" includes those labourers who came up to Dhubri as "free immigrants" and entered into contracts under section 112A of the Act at that place. The figures in the above table show that there was a very large increase in the number of immigrants into the province in 1895 as compared with 1894. The figures for the past six years are given below:

Class of labourers.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Act { Sardári	7,291	9,241	13,513	11,710	9,743	8,988
Act { Contractors'	10,082	16,071	14,942	14,304	13,980	21,847
Non-Act adults	8,832	12,627	13,347	11,129	11,983	25,666
Total of Act and non-Act adults	26,205	37,939	41,802	37,143	35,706	56,501
Children	9,875	11,969	14,248	13,532	10,824	16,336
Grand total (including children)	36,080	49,908	56,050	50,675	46,530	72,837

These figures show that the total number of immigrants who entered the province in 1895 was far in excess of that of the previous year, and was more than double the number reported in 1890. It will be noticed, too, that the number of sardári adults, after increasing from 1890 to 1892 has steadily decreased ever since, and that Act adults imported through contractors are now nearly two-and-a-half times as numerous as those brought into the province by sardárs. The number of children imported rose from 10,824 to 16,336; the proportion of children to total importation was practically the same as in 1894, a result which may be considered satisfactory when the large increase in the total number of importations is taken into account.

District and valley statistics of immigration.

2. The following table compares the statistics of immigration during the past two years for each division and tea district of the province :

District.	Act adults.			Non-Act adults.			Total of Act and non-Act adults.			Children.			Grand total, including children.		
	1894.	1895.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1894.	1895.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1894.	1895.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1894.	1895.	Percentage of increase or decrease.	1894.	1895.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	1,645	2,402	+ 46·02	3,267	7,882	+141·26	4,912	10,284	+109·36	616	1,062	+ 72·40	5,528	11,346	+105·2
Sylhet	2,017	4,850	+140·45	5,539	13,731	+145·67	7,606	18,581	+144·29	3,075	7,869	+155·90	10,681	26,450	+147·63
Total Surma Valley	3,662	7,252	+ 98·03	8,856	21,613	+144·05	12,518	28,865	+130 58	3,691	8,931	+141·96	16,209	37,796	+133·17
Kámrúp	149	150	+ ·67	47	37	— 21·27	196	187	— 4·5	39	53	+ 35·89	235	240	+ 2·12
Darrang	4,440	5,590	+ 25·90	289	448	+ 55·02	4,729	6,038	+ 27·68	932	1,885	+102·25	5,661	7,923	+ 39·95
Nowgong	1,395	1,880	+ 34·76	174	171	— 1·72	1,569	2,051	+ 30·72	384	489	+ 27·34	1,953	2,540	+ 30·05
Sibságar	7,325	7,298	— 0·37	907	1,297	+ 42·99	8,232	8,595	+ 4 4(	3,145	2,526	— 19·68	11,377	11,121	— 2·25
Lakhimpur.. ..	6,752	8,665	+ 28·33	1,710	2,100	+ 22·80	8,462	10,765	+ 27·21	2,633	2,452	— 6·87	11,095	13,217	+ 19·12
Total Assam Valley	20,061	23,583	+ 17·55	3,127	4,053	+ 29·61	23,188	27,636	+ 19·1	7,133	7,405	+ 3·81	30,321	35,041	+ 15·56
Grand total ..	23,723	30,835	+ 29·97	11,983	25,666	+114·18	35,706	56,501	+ 58·24	10,824	16,336	+ 50·92	46,530	72,837	+ 56·54

The table shows that, though every district except Sibságar contributed to the total increase in the number of immigrants, it was the Surma Valley districts that were mainly responsible for the abnormal rise in the figures. In those districts, the number of immigrants exceeded that reported in 1894 by no less than 133 per cent.

The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, in whose district there was an increase of 105 per cent., attributes it to small importations in 1894. This, however, affords only a partial explanation of the figures, the falling off in 1894 having been only 2,381 against an increase of 5,818 in the year under review ; in this connection, it is curious to note that while there was a large increase in the number of coolies recruited, the area actually under tea cultivation in the Cachar district decreased by 1,370 acres during the year. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet says, in explanation of the increase of 147 per cent. in his district:

It is difficult to assign any special reason for this abnormal increase, and I am of opinion that it is due to the concurrence of a variety of causes. There has been considerable expansion of the areas taken up for tea cultivation, both by the extension of old gardens and by the opening out of new ones, and this involves an increase in the number of hands employed. The new area settled by Government for tea in the last three years is shown below :

Year.	Quantity of land in acres.
1895	7,936
1894	1,140
1893	562

There is a tendency also in some gardens to maintain a proportionately larger labour force than was formerly the custom. It has been necessary, moreover, to fill up the numerous gaps caused by desertions to the railway. The main cause, however, is, I think, the opening of the railway from Chandpur up to the boundary of this district. Formerly, the Surma Valley was a *terra incognita to* the up-country man, and it was only accessible by steamer, an unfamiliar mode of conveyance. He, therefore, did not, as a rule, extend his peregrinations beyond Goalundo. This, however, is all changed now. Numbers of coolies from all parts of India are constantly employed on the Assam-Bengal Railway, and bodies of them are continually passing backwards and forwards between Goalundo and Chandpur. This route is therefore well known, and the journey to Sylhet has lost its terrors. Another cause that contributes to the increase in immigration is the gradual spread among the labouring classes in the more congested districts of Northern India of the knowledge that the tea districts offer them a more comfortable and less laborious livelihood than that afforded them by their own country. This district has lately been visited by parties of Sonthals, not personally conducted but touring independently for the purpose of examining the capabilities of the country as a place of residence. The result of their examination is said to be favourable.

Sibságar was the only district in the Assam Valley into which fewer labourers were imported in 1895 than in 1894, but the difference in the figures for the two years

is trifling. Immigration into that district has been practically stationary for several years past. The net increase in the total number of immigrants into the other districts in the Assam Valley is ascribed to extensions in the area under tea; it is partly attributable also to the fact that importations in 1893 and 1894 were short, having been less than in 1892 by 10 and 17 per cent., respectively. In Nowgong, it is said that scarcity of local labour owing to *kála-azár* is the reason for greater recourse being had to imported labour. In Lakhimpur, the importations, although greater than in the previous year, were still less than in 1893.

3. The following statement gives the nationality of the adult immigrants, and shows their sex and the agency by which Act immigrants were recruited :

Nationality of immigrants.

Nationality of immigrants.		Act.				Non-Act.		Total.	
		Garden sardárs.		Contractors.					
		1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal. Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas.	Men ..	3,471	2,916	4,648	4,600	1,711	3,096	9,830	10,612
	Women ..	3,009	2,373	3,542	3,820	1,452	1,564	8,003	7,757
	Total ..	6,480	5,289	8,190	8,420	3,163	4,660	17,833	18,369
Behar ..	Men ..	455	403	506	1,126	585	1,604	1,546	3,133
	Women ..	350	337	333	801	429	519	1,112	1,657
	Total ..	805	740	839	1,927	1,014	2,123	2,658	4,790
Bengal Proper and Orissa	Men ..	566	403	1,142	1,201	860	1,567	2,568	3,171
	Women ..	563	336	1,228	1,099	645	818	2,436	2,253
	Total ..	1,129	739	2,370	2,300	1,505	2,385	5,004	5,424
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ..	326	524	603	2,239	2,968	8,004	3,897	10,767
	Women ..	212	288	422	1,535	2,423	6,367	3,057	8,190
	Total ..	538	812	1,025	3,774	5,391	14,371	6,954	18,957
Central Provinces ..	Men ..	242	777	611	3,070	396	1,301	1,249	5,148
	Women ..	170	301	413	2,001	182	482	765	2,784
	Total ..	412	1,078	1,024	5,071	578	1,783	2,014	7,932
Madras	Men ..	181	182	358	200	86	238	625	620
	Women ..	151	134	168	141	32	74	351	349
	Total ..	332	316	526	341	118	312	976	969
Bombay ..	Men ..	1	..	3	9	4	3	8	12
	Women ..	..	..	2	3	3	..	5	3
	Total ..	1	..	5	12	7	3	13	15
Nepal	Men ..	33	11	1	2	19	29	53	42
	Women ..	13	3	..	..	7	..	20	3
	Total ..	46	14	1	2	26	29	73	45
Assam	Men ..	..	..	..	..	181	..	181	..
	Women ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	..	..	..	..	181	..	181	..
Total	Men ..	5,275	5,216	7,872	12,447	6,810	15,842	19,957	33,505
	Women ..	4,468	3,772	6,108	9,400	5,173	9,824	15,749	22,996
Grand total		9,743	8,988	13,980	21,847	11,983	25,666	35,706	56,501

The figures in this statement show that in spite of the large increase in the total number of labourers imported, those imported by garden sardárs were fewer in

number than in the previous year, but it must be borne in mind, as stated in last year's report, that "probably the great majority of the immigrants shown as non-Act adults, certainly so far as the Surma Valley districts are concerned, are recruited by garden sardárs."

Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas have hitherto been the principal recruiting ground for immigrants to Assam, and the immigrants from those areas usually number nearly half of the total immigrants into the province. In 1895, however, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh headed the list with 18,957 immigrants, against only 18,369 from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. These figures represent an enormously increased activity in recruiting from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh; in 1893, those provinces furnished only 6,188 adult immigrants and in 1894 only 6,954, against 17,837 and 17,833, respectively, from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. Of the total increase of 12,003 immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Sylhet is responsible for no less than 9,151. The Deputy Commissioner, in commenting on the figures, says :

The congested districts of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh continue to be the principal recruiting ground, though unfortunately the climate of several gardens in the southern part of the district is unsuitable for up-country men. It is, moreover, a fact that many labourers imported on contract, who are alleged to come from Chota Nagpur and similar districts, are in reality North-Westerns, and many a so-called "jungly coolie" never saw a hill or a jungle till he came to Assam. The North-Western Provinces, therefore, yield even a larger proportion of immigrants to Assam than appears from the figures returned by the garden managers.

Jungly coolies are becoming scarce. They come from sparsely populated tracts, which are becoming exhausted as recruiting grounds. The demand for "junglies," however, and consequently their price, is increasing, so that the less scrupulous among those connected with the labour supply are tempted to send up ordinary plains coolies under the style and at the price of junglies.

This increased importation of North-Western Provinces coolies is a matter requiring close attention. As stated by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, there are certain localities which are unfit for the residence of natives of the North-Western Provinces, and the importation of such persons to gardens in these localities should be discouraged as much as possible. It will be seen later on in this Report that in many cases where action in respect of unhealthy gardens has been taken under section 132 of the Act, that action has been to close the garden to coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Behar furnished nearly twice as many immigrants as in the previous year, but the figures for 1894 were unusually low. There was a further rise in the number of labourers coming from the Central Provinces, the figures for the last three years having been, in 1893, 896, in 1894, 2,014, and in 1895, 7,932. From Bengal Proper and Orissa, the number of immigrants was much the same as in the previous year. The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar writes :

The chief feature of the year has been the considerable increase of immigration from the Central Provinces and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, while immigration from Bengal Proper and from Chota Nagpur and Sonthalia decreased. These results are no doubt connected with the good harvests of 1894 in Bengal and the comparative scarcity in that year in the Central Provinces, and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

The increase in the figures for the Central Provinces is no doubt largely due to the introduction of the Act there. The Chief Commissioner understands that the province is now being systematically worked by professional recruiting agencies with headquarters at Bilaspur and branches at various outlying places. The figures for Madras, Bombay, Nepal, and Assam call for no remarks.

The following table shows the relative order in which each of the principal localities of recruitment stands in respect of Act and non-Act importations :

(*a*) *Act Importations.*

Locality of recruitment.	Recruited by		Total number of labourers imported during 1895.
	Garden sardárs.	Contractors.	
(1) Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas ...	5,289	8,420	13,709
(2) Central Provinces	1,078	5,071	6,149
(3) North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	812	3,774	4,586
(4) Bengal Proper and Orissa	739	2,300	3,039
(5) Behar	740	1,927	2,667

(*b*) *Non-Act Importations.*

	Number of coolies imported.
(1) North-Western Provinces and Oudh	14,371
(2) Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas	4,660
(3) Bengal Proper and Orissa	2,385
(4) Behar	2,123
(5) Central Provinces	1,783

The relative positions of the various areas of recruitment have changed considerably in respect of Act importations since last year. In 1894, the number of Act immigrants from the Central Provinces was inconsiderable, but in the year under review the figures have risen from 1,436 to 6,149, and the Central Provinces now stand second on the list. The North-Western Provinces and Oudh have gone above Bengal Proper and Orissa and Behar. The order in respect of non-Act importations is unchanged.

Female immigrants.

4. The proportion of women to the total number of adult immigrants from the principal areas of recruitment is shown below :

Locality of recruitment.	Percentage of women to total adult immigrants among							
	Sardári immigrants.		Contractors' immigrants.		Non-Act immigrants.		All adult immigrants.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas ...	46·4	44·8	43·2	45·4	45·9	33·5	44·8	42·2
Behar	43·5	45·5	39·7	41·5	42·3	24·4	41·8	34·5
Bengal Proper and Orissa	49·8	45·4	51·8	47·8	42·8	34·3	48·7	41·5
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	39·4	35·5	41·1	40·6	44·9	44·3	43·9	43·2
Central Provinces	41·2	27·9	40·3	39·4	31·5	27·0	37·9	35·1

These figures show a remarkable departure from the rule which has hitherto governed the proportion of female to male immigrants, *viz.*, that the proportion varied inversely as the distance from Assam to the area of recruitment. The highest proportion in 1895 occurred among immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the next highest among those from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. Bengal Proper and Orissa come third, the Central Provinces fourth, and Behar last on the list. But this inversion of the usual order does not imply an increase in the number of female immigrants from the more distant provinces ; on the contrary, the percentage of women to men was less in 1895 than in 1894 from all the principal areas of recruitment ; but in the case of Bengal and Behar, the falling off was much greater than in the case of the other recruiting areas. None of the Deputy Commissioners have offered any explanation of the diminished proportion of women to men. In the case of Bengal and Orissa, it is partly, and in that of Behar it is wholly, due to a large increase in the importations of non-Act men, while there was only a very slight increase in the number of non-Act women. This, again, may be attributed to increased activity amongst the coolie contractors, coupled with a good harvest, which kept families from emigrating, and forced the contractors to fall back upon waifs and strays with no family ties.

Extent to which Act labourers were recruited by contractors and garden sardárs.

5. The following table shows the number of Act labourers imported during the past two years into each district and division of the province, the number imported through sardárs and contractors, respectively, and the average number imported by each sardár :

District.	Sardári coolies.		Number of certificates granted to garden sardárs.		Average recruits per sardár.		Contractors' coolies.		Percentage of increase or decrease of importations during 1895 as compared with 1894.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	Sardári.	Contractors.
Cachar	818	1,153	488	682	1·6	1·6	827	1,249	+ 40·9	+ 51·0
Sylhet	909	894	785	704*	1·1	1·2	1,108	3,956	— 1·6	+257·0
Total Surma Valley ...	1,727	2,047	1,273	1,386	1·3	1·4	1,935	5,205	+ 18·5	+168·9
Kámrúp	105	62	7	11	15·0	5·6	44	88	— 40·9	+100·0
Darrang	1,106	1,626	489	704	2·2	2·3	3,334	3,964	+ 47·0	+ 18·9
Nowgong ...	298	329	159	193	1·8	1·7	1,097	1,551	+ 10·4	+ 41·3
Sibságar	3,778	2,808	1,645	1,725	2·3	1·6	3,547	4,490	— 25·6	+ 26·5
Lakhimpur ...	2,729	2,116	1,230	1,298	2·2	1·6	4,023	6,549	— 22·4	+ 62·7
Total Brahmaputra Valley.	8,016	6,941	3,530	3,931	2·3	1·8	12,045	16,642	— 13·4	+ 38·1
Grand total ...	9,743	8,988	4,803	5,317	2·0	1·7	13,980	21,847	— 7·7	+ 54·9

* Out of this number, 8 licenses were cancelled afterwards at the request of the employers.

The chief object of this statement is to show how far garden sardárs were able to hold their own against contractors during the year. The figures show that, though 514 more sardárs were sent down to recruit in 1895 than in 1894, the total number of coolies recruited by sardárs for the whole province was only 8,988 compared with 9,743 in 1894. The districts of the Assam Valley are responsible for this result, the falling off occurring chiefly in Sibságar and Lakhimpur. The average number of recruits brought up by sardárs from these two districts fell from 2·3 and 2·2, respectively, to 1·6 in both cases, and the average for the Assam Valley, as a whole, fell from 2·3 to 1·8, the lowest figure ever reported. The annually increasing demand for labour and the keen competition amongst the various recruiting agencies, are chiefly responsible for this result.

As explained last year, the figures reported for the Surma Valley are of little practical use, as most of the sardári recruits are brought up as non-Act adults; so far as they go, however, the figures show that sardári recruiting was attended with greater success than in 1894, especially in Cachar. From that district, a largely increased number of sardárs maintained the same average number of recruits per sardár as in 1894. In Sylhet, the average number of recruits was slightly greater than in the previous year. The Deputy Commissioner of the latter district is inclined to think that the figures reported are below the mark; he says—

> The average number recruited by each sardár cannot be considered accurate, as the large number of sardárs who went away recruiting about the latter part of the year 1895 could not evidently have returned to the district by the end of that year. The average struck on the number of coolies imported, divided by the number of sardárs licensed during the year under report, cannot therefore be correct.

It must, however, be remembered that if the figures fail to take into account coolies brought up after the close of the year by sardárs licensed in 1895, they probably include others imported at the beginning of the year by sardárs licensed in 1894.

Contractors' coolies increased by no less than 7,867, or 54·9 per cent., and, comparing these results with the figures for sardári Act recruits, it would at first sight appear that recruitment by sardárs had been unable to compete with that by contractors in 1895. But, as stated in paragraph 3 above, it is probable that in the Surma Valley the great majority of the non-Act adults imported were recruited by sardárs. It is probable also that many sardárs are sent down to the recruiting districts from the Surma Valley with licenses under section 51 and return with non-Act adults. On the whole, therefore, the Chief Commissioner thinks it may be said that sardári recruitment in 1895 was fairly successful so far as the Surma Valley districts are concerned, but that it was attended by partial failure in the Assam Valley.

In paragraph 2 of the Government of India's Resolution on last year's report, the apparent discrepancy between the Assam and the Bengal figures relating to recruitment through contractors, was commented on, and it was suggested that the discrepancy was due to coolies recruited by "local agents" licensed under section 62 of the Act (or "special local agents" as they are called in the Bengal report), being regarded in Assam as contractors' coolies and in Bengal as sardári coolies. In the subsidiary orders to district officers in Assam, issued in connection with the Report for 1894, the following observations were made in connection with this subject:

> This, however, I am to point out, is not the correct explanation, and the discrepancy referred to by the Government of India is only an apparent, and not a real, one. The Bengal Government, it will be observed, refer to "*licensed* contractors" only, whereas it is well known that most of the immigrants imported into the Assam Valley districts, and shown as contractors' coolies in the district reports, are recruited through *unlicensed* contractors. No further explanation seems, therefore, to be required on this point. I am, however, to request that you will be good enough to explain in your next annual report under what heading (*i.e.*, whether sardári or contractors'), coolies recruited direct by local agents *without the intervention of a garden sardár*, are entered in the district returns. In reporting on this point, you should bear in mind the difference between licensed and unlicensed local agents. A local agent may be licensed either under section 59 or section 62 of the Act. If he is licensed under section 59 only, he merely acts as the representative of the employer in the recruiting districts, and supervises the recruiting work of garden sardars, but is not authorised to recruit himself; but if he is licensed under section 62 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act to contract direct with labourers, he is at liberty to recruit himself without the intervention of a garden sardár. A local agent licensed under section 62 is declared by the Act to be in the position of a garden sardár, and coolies recruited by him should be shown as sardári coolies. A local agent, however, who is not licensed under section 62, seems to be in practically the same position as an unlicensed contractor, inasmuch as he is an unlicensed professional supplier of labour recruiting outside the Act; and if he supplies coolies direct without the intervention of a garden sardár, his recruits should, the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think, be entered as contractors' coolies.

From the reports received from the Deputy Commissioners, it appears that the practice varies as to the head under which coolies recruited by local agents without the intervention of garden sardárs, are entered in the returns furnished by employers. The instructions quoted above were, moreover, received by Deputy Commissioners too late to enable them to make full enquiries on the subject. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibságar, writes :

Managers of tea estates were addressed in order to ascertain the extent to which local agents, licensed and unlicensed, are made use of (1) for supervising garden sardárs and (2) for supervising coolies recruited not by garden sardárs, but direct by them (the local agents). The replies received from some managers do not afford very clear information, and there has not been time to make full enquiry into the subject. It appears, however, that gardens which employ garden sardárs to recruit labour do usually employ local agents for supervising the sardárs, and some of the large concerns employ several such local agents. Thus, the Assam Company employ for this purpose eight local agents, the Jhanzi Tea Association seven, the Jorhát Tea Company nineteen, and the Rajmai Tea Company seven. These agents are generally licensed under section 59 of Act I of 1882. Some of them also carry on the business of unlicensed contractors for the supply of labour, and some are also licensed under section 62 of the Act, but I am not prepared to say how many are so licensed, as most of the replies received do not distinguish clearly between licenses under section 59 and under section 62. It would seem that all coolies supplied direct by their local agents are shown in garden and district returns as contractors' immigrants, whether they are or are not recruited under section 62 of the Act. Thus, the manager of the Amguri tea estate, Mr. Buckingham, reports—"During last year we imported 21 men 23 women and 13 children through Messrs. Driver and Stainforth, the Agents in the recruiting districts, who supply what we call *arkati* labour. The abovenamed gentlemen hold a license under section 62 of Act I of 1882." From the reply received from the General Manager of the Assam Company, it appears that Messrs. Driver and Stainforth are employed by that Company, not as local agents, but only as unlicensed contractors. A local agent licensed under section 62 can recruit coolies as sardárs only for employers specified in the license. Apparently, coolies recruited by them for any other employers should be treated as contractors' coolies.

The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, says—

I do not think that licensed local agents are much employed by gardens in this district. Coolies are obtained either through contractors (licensed) or garden sardárs or through unlicensed local agents, often the Manager of the garden or one of his Assistants.

Efforts will be made to secure more accurate figures for the report for the current year.

Medical examination of sardári immigrants.

6. The following figures show the number of sardárs' certificates in the several districts, which provided under section 70 of the Act for the medical examination of labourers prior to engagement, and the proportion of such certificates to the total number of certificates to recruit granted to sardárs during the past two years :

District.	Number of certificates which provided for the medical examination of labourers.		Percentage of such certificates to total number of certificates to recruit granted to sardárs.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar	190	344	38·9	50·4
Sylhet	193	216	24·6	30·6
Kámrúp	7	...	100·0	...
Darrang	400	443	81·8	62·9
Nowgong	113	191	71·0	98·9
Sibságar	943	1,082	57·3	62·7
Lakhimpur	722	653	58·7	50·3
Total	2,568	2,929	53·4	55·1

The percentages for the three previous years were in 1891, 39, in 1892, 49·8, and in 1893, 51·3, and it is satisfactory to note that the gradual improvement in this respect, which has been continuous since 1891, was maintained during the year under review. The fact that Government holds employers responsible for any excessive mortality amongst immigrants imported by them, which is attributable to the inferior physique or unsuitability of such immigrants to the climate of the locality in which they have to work, has been repeatedly insisted on by this Administration, and the figures given above seem to show that, on the whole, increased importance is being attached by managers to the necessity for taking all possible precautions to ensure that none but the best class of coolies are sent up to their gardens. This appears to be especially the case in Nowgong, where *kála-azár* is so prevalent. The figures for Lakhimpur and Darrang show a regrettable falling off in this respect, which has not been sufficiently explained. The Deputy Commissioner of Darrang states that it was the managers of the larger gardens in his district who omitted to provide for the medical examination of emigrants prior to engagement, but he gives no satisfactory explanation of their reasons for

neglecting to take this precaution. The Deputy Commissioner has been instructed to draw the attention of the managers of the gardens concerned to the importance of this subject, and to explain to them that, while the importation of bad batches of coolies cannot under any circumstances be admitted as a sufficient excuse for excessive mortality, the Chief Commissioner has less hesitation in enforcing the responsibility of employers for such importations in cases where they neglect to take this very necessary precaution.

Statistics of free or assisted emigration.

7. The statement below shows separately the following classes of adult immigrants : (1) those recruited through contractors under Chapter III of the Act ; (2) those recruited through garden sardárs under Chapter IV of the Act ; (3) those who entered into contracts under the Act at Dhubri ; (4) those who entered into contracts under the Act in the actual labour districts ; and (5) those who after arrival in the labour districts were employed as non-Act labourers not on contract under the Act :

District.	Act immigrants.			Free (non-Act) immigrants subsequently employed as Act labourers.			Free (non-Act) immigrants employed as free (non-Act) labourers and their dependents.			Grand total.
	Contracted in recruiting districts.									
	Under Chapter III of Act.	Under Chapter IV of Act.	Total.	Contracted at Dhubri.	Contracted in actual labour district.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total.	
Cachar	1,249	1,153	2,402	...	1,022	1,022	6,860	1,062	7,922	11,346
Sylhet	3,956	894	4,850	...	4,875	4,875	8,856	7,869	16,725	26,450
Total Surma Valley ...	5,205	2,047	7,252	...	5,897	5,897	15,716	8,931	24,647	37,796
Kámrúp	88	40	128	22	...	22	37	53	90	240
Darrang	3,070	934	4,004	1,586	...	1,586	448	1,885	2,333	7,923
Nowgong	848	329	1,177	703	...	703	171	489	660	2,540
Sibságar	2,025	1,798	3,823	3,475	471	3,946	826	2,526	3,352	11,121
Lakhimpur	4,892	1,865	6,757	1,908	69	1,977	2,031	2,452	4,483	13,217
Total Assam Valley ...	10,923	4,966	15,889	7,694	540	8,234	3,513	7,405	10,918	35,041
Grand total	16,128	7,013	23,141	7,694	6,437	14,131	19,229	16,336	35,565	72,837
Total of 1894	7,082	7,725	14,807	8,916	2,658	11,574	9,325	10,824	20,149	46,530

As stated in last year's report, this statement has been prepared to meet the wishes of the Government of India. It has not yet, however, been found possible to secure accuracy in the figures contained in it, and the totals do not agree with those of other statements in this report. The Chief Commissioner has recently considered the measures necessary to secure greater accuracy, and has issued orders which, it is hoped, will enable correct information to be given in future reports.

Cost of importation.

8. The district reports do not contain much information on the subject of the cost of importation. So far as can be gathered, there does not appear to have been much change in the rates in 1895, in spite of the largely increased number of immigrants imported. In some districts, however, it would seem that the cost is still rising, as much as Rs. 155 per head having been expended during the year in importing labour into the Nowgong district.

Transit of immigrants to the Assam Valley *viâ* Dhubri.

9. From the Report furnished by the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára on Inland Immigration *viâ* Dhubri, it appears that only 13,104 adult immigrants and dependents started from the recruiting districts for the Assam Valley *viâ* Dhubri, as compared with

21,425 in the previous year and 22,410 in 1893. In explanation of the very large difference between the figures for the last two years, the Deputy Commissioner says—

> The reasons for this large decrease are given by depôt managers as follows :
>
> (*a*) Coolies are being put under contract in the recruiting districts under special licenses by selecting agents and being shipped direct to the gardens from Goalundo.
>
> (*b*) Sardári coolies are placed under contract in the recruiting districts nowadays in larger numbers than formerly, and are despatched by railway direct to Goalundo, which is said to be the nearest point of embarkation in a large number of cases.
>
> These are the causes stated by the depôt managers. The decrease, however, is so large that I should be inclined to think that there must have been other causes, besides those mentioned above, operating. Undoubtedly, the Dhubri route, for some reason or other, has become less popular with those who have the control of the labour-supply in the recruiting districts.

The casualties *en route* to Dhubri included 9 deaths, 74 desertions, and 94 detentions by sickness. In 1894, the corresponding figures were 20, 57, and 105, respectively. There was also one addition on the journey in 1894. Of the 13,104 persons who left the recruiting districts, 13,019 (including 92 persons who arrived on the last day of 1894) arrived at Dhubri; 10,859 travelled *viâ* Goalundo, and only 2,160 *viâ* Kaunia-Jatrapur, against 13,311 and 8,003, respectively, in 1894. The popularity of the Goalundo, as compared with the Kaunia-Jatrapur, route thus appears to be still on the increase. Of the coolies who passed through the Dhubri depôts during the year, none were recruited by licensed contractors ; only 145 against 1,944 in 1894 were sardári coolies, who had been recruited by licensed sardárs and placed under contract in the recruiting districts ; the rest were free or assisted emigrants. Of these latter, 440, against 501 in 1894, were brought up to be passed on to the labour districts without contracts, and 12,434, against 18,869, were labourers to be placed under contract at Dhubri, or dependents to be sent up with such labourers. Altogether, 8,825 coolies were placed under contract at Dhubri in 1895, against 12,464 in 1894 ; the number of dependents accompanying them fell from 5,520 to 2,774. Of the 9,660 persons brought up to be placed under contract (including those medically rejected), none were recruited through licensed sardárs, against 1,207, with 709 dependents, in 1894. 2,877 labourers, with 1,450 dependents, were recruited through unlicensed sardárs, against 3,061 and 2,126, respectively, in 1894 ; and 6,783 labourers, with 1,324 dependents, were recruited through contractors, against 9,081 and 2,685, respectively. In addition to the immigrants who passed through the Dhubri depôts, 22,221 immigrants and dependents were despatched direct to the labour districts in the Assam Valley from Goalundo.

In paragraph 9 of last year's report, the discrepancy between the figures giving the total number of immigrants into the Assam Valley districts, as reported by the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, and those furnished by managers to the Deputy Commissioners of labour districts, was commented on. Enquiries were made subsequently, but it was not found possible to explain the discrepancy satisfactorily. In 1895, the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, reports that 12,490 immigrants were imported into the Assam Valley labour districts through the Dhubri depôts and 22,221 direct from Goalundo, or a total of 34,711. According to the returns furnished by managers, 35,041 immigrants were imported during the year. There is thus a difference of 330 in the figures. Last year the Dhubri figures showed an excess over those returned by the managers, while this year the latter exceed the former. One explanation of differences between the two sets of figures is to be found in the fact that immigrants starting from Goalundo and Dhubri in the last week of a year would ordinarily reach their destination in the first week of the following year. Under the orders referred to in paragraph 7 above, the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, will, in future, maintain separate figures for each labour district, and the Commissioner will thus be able to check the accuracy of the figures returned from each labour district by comparing them with those reported by the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára.

All the immigrants landed at Dhubri with a view to being placed under contract there were examined by the Civil Surgeon, or, in his absence, by his assistant. The proportion of rejections to immigrants medically examined rose from 885 out of 13,349 in 1894 to 835 out of 9,660. Of these rejections, 388 were sent up to the tea districts as dependents, and 217 as free labourers ; while 230 were repatriated at the managers' expense. In 1894, the figures were 287, 314, and 284, respectively.

In paragraph 5 of the Resolutionof the Government of India on the Provincial Report for 1894, it was suggested that the question as to how far coolies rejected on medical grounds at Dhubri should be allowed to proceed to the tea gardens should be

further considered. From the enquiries which have since been made, it appears that the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára was incorrect in the statement, made in his report for 1894 and repeated in his report for the year under review, to the effect that coolies were examined merely with reference to their fitness to travel to the labour districts, and that, as a matter of fact, acting on an old executive order of Sir Charles Elliott's, the Civil Surgeon examines all intending immigrants whom it is proposed to place under contract, as to their fitness to labour on a tea garden, and rejects all whom he does not consider fit for such labour. Ever since Act I of 1882 was enacted, the policy of Government has been to throw the responsibility for the fitness of immigrants to labour and reside in the tea districts on the employer, and the compulsory examination of coolies placed under the Act in Bengal is confined to the question of their fitness to travel to the labour district (*vide* sections 40 and 67 of the Act). As the law now stands, coolies are placed under contract at Dhubri under section 112A of the Act, and their medical examination is provided for by Rule 4 of the Rules framed by the Chief Commissioner, the authority for framing the rule being section 112B. This rule, following the principle underlying sections 40 and 67 of the Act, only requires the Civil Surgeon to examine persons whom it is proposed to place under contract with reference to their fitness to travel to the place where the contract is to be performed. This has been pointed out to the Civil Surgeon, and he has been directed in future to confine the compulsory examination of coolies to this point only.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that, under the executive orders of the Chief Commissioner, when the employer signifies his desire that this should be done, the Civil Surgeon is also permitted to examine coolies, with reference to their fitness to labour and reside in the labour district. This is already provided for by section 42A of the Act in the case of contractors' coolies, and by section 70 in the case of sardári coolies who are placed under agreement before they reach the labour districts, and it is now proposed to amplify Rule 4, already referred to, on the lines of these sections and thereby give a legal basis to the similar procedure which is already recognised at Dhubri, but which is at present looked upon, more or less, as being of the nature of private practice, and outside the sphere of the Civil Surgeon's official duties.

The above remarks relate to the principle underlying the medical examination at Dhubri. It remains to be considered what action should be taken in regard to coolies who are medically rejected. In commenting on the observations made on this subject in paragraph 9 of last year's report, the Government of India suggested that such immigrants should always be repatriated, except when such a course would result in distinct hardship to *the person himself*. In this view, the Chief Commissioner entirely concurs, and orders have been issued to the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, accordingly. The Deputy Commissioner has further been directed, in deciding what would constitute hardship, to take into consideration, (1) whether the immigrant is or is not permanently incapacitated for earning a livelihood in a labour district; (2) the wishes of the immigrant himself; (3) whether or not other members of the immigrant's family are proceeding to, or are living on, the same garden as that to which it was intended that he should be sent; (4) the circumstances of the immigrant in his own country; and (5) the physical defects for which he has been medically rejected.

The Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, reports that the three depôts at Dhubri continued to be well managed as a rule; but there was one case in which a contractor's peon was convicted of wrongfully confining a coolie woman in one of the sleeping-houses of Messrs. H. L. Mukherjee & Co.'s depôt. It was also proved that he assaulted her and intimidated her into signing a contract. The peon was sentenced, under sections 342, 352, and 506, Indian Penal Code, to six months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 40. The Deputy Commissioner remarks that this case could not have occurred if the manager had exercised proper supervision; and in this view he has very properly warned Messrs. H. L. Mukherjee & Co. that if a case of ill-treatment of a coolie in their depôt occurs again, he will cancel their license.

Transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley.

10. Efforts have been made during the past two years to improve the accuracy of the statistics regarding the transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley, but so far the results obtained have not been very satisfactory. Until very recently, immigrants came up as far as Fenchuganj, partly by country boat, and partly by steamer. From Fenchuganj upwards, they travelled almost entirely by country boat. There was thus great difficulty in exercising any sanitary control over the immigrants and in procuring accurate statistics regarding them. It appears, however, from the reports of the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar for 1895, that a feeder steamer service has been established between Fenchuganj and Silchar, and that the country boat traffic has practically ceased all along the route. This preference for steamer conveyance should be encouraged as much as possible.

The Deputy Commissioners have taken some steps to secure more accurate statistics regarding mortality in transit during the year under report, but the arrangements made with this object are still far from perfect. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, it appears, relies partly on information collected by the hospital assistants in charge of the debarkation depôts along the route and partly on information supplied by the agent of the Steamer Companies at Fenchuganj and by the Embarkation Agent, Goalundo. There is, however, no debarkation depôt at Madna, where the Deputy Commissioner reports that many immigrants now land for gardens in Habiganj and South Sylhet. He proposes to establish a depôt there, and this proposal will be separately considered. The information supplied by the Steamer Companies' agents in 1895 is reported to have been unsatisfactory ; the returns submitted by the different hospital assistants at the depôts show that the steamer agents omitted to report 4 deaths among immigrants disembarking at Fenchuganj, and 5 and 1 among those disembarking at Manumukh and Karimganj respectively. The Embarkation Agent, Goalundo, reported that only 2 deaths occurred during 1895 between Goalundo and Sylhet, but this has been proved to be far short of the truth. The Deputy Commissioner, nevertheless, thinks that, on the whole, the figures supplied by the hospital assistants in charge of the debarkation depôts may be accepted as correct, but, in view of the figures reported, the Chief Commissioner is unable to accept this view, and is constrained to think that the record of deaths during transit is still very incomplete. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, appears to collect his information from the Joint Steamer Agent, Fenchuganj, and from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet. Now that practically the whole of the immigrants into this valley travel by steamer, the Chief Commissioner cannot understand why there should be any more difficulty in securing accuracy in the statistics for the Surma Valley than for the Assam Valley, and he is compelled to come to the conclusion that sufficient attention has not been given to this subject by the Deputy Commissioners of Sylhet and Cachar. Separate orders will issue in this connection.

Debarkation depôts.

11. The following statement shows the extent to which the debarkation depôts were used during the year :

District.	Number of depôts.	Total number of immigrants to district.	Number that passed through depôts.	Number detained at depôts.				Contracts cancelled at depôts.	Expenditure.	
				Through want of a guide.	In hospital.	For segregation.	For night only.		Building.	Establishment, etc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	2	11,346	3,385	54	421	102	2,148	15	2,634 9 6	3,409 7 0
Sylhet	5	26,450	10,840	...	88	259	352	2	199 4 0	1,579 13 4
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang	1	7,923	7,511	463	84	149	3,037	...	299 0 0	2,115 11 0
Nowgong	1	2,540	2,452	113	29	71	884	...	162 12 0	470 4 9
Sibságar	3	11,121	12,638*	1,198	129	203	2,681	...	677 8 0	2,355 7 6
Lakhimpur	1	13,217	914	144	159	...	630	...	329 0 0	1,686 10 0
Total	13	72,597	37,740	1,972	910	784	9,732	17	4,302 1 6	11,617 5 7
Total for 1894 ...	13	46,295	35,377	3,189	815	434	6,432	92	3,276 13 4	11,738 11 0

* Includes 1,517 coolies for the Lakhimpur district.

The number and location of the depôts remained unchanged during the year. The actual number of coolies who passed through the depôts was slightly greater than in 1894, but the proportion of such coolies to the total number of immigrants was very much smaller than in that year. For this, the Cachar, Sylhet, and Lakhimpur districts are

responsible. The majority of the immigrants into the two former districts are non-Act, and they are averse to using the depôts. In Lakhimpur only 914 out of 13,217 immigrants are reported to have passed through the depôt, as compared with 8,914 out of 11,095 in 1894, but the Deputy Commissioner's remarks on the subject are not quite clear. He says—

> Out of 914 coolies who passed through the depôts, 630 were detained for a night only, 144 for want of a guide and 159 in hospital. As a rule, coolies are made over at once to the garden agents at the ghát. During the year, 9,745 coolies passed through the depôts without being detained at all, against 7,346 coolies in the previous year.

From these remarks, it would appear that only coolies detained for a night or more have been entered in the returns as having "passed through the depôts," and that the difference between the figures for the two years is more apparent than real. The Deputy Commissioner will be asked if this supposition is correct, and, if so, to explain the change in his procedure. The number of immigrants detained for want of a guide shows a further satisfactory decrease. The Sibságar depôts always show the largest number of such detentions, but the figures there have fallen from 3,529 in 1893 and 2,295 in 1894, to 1,198. A considerable number of these detentions occur among immigrants destined for the North Lakhimpur subdivision, who are landed at Kokilamukh, and the great distance between the gardens in that subdivision and the depôt, combined with the difficulty frequently experienced in crossing the intervening rivers, the Subansiri and Brahmaputra, often renders such detentions unavoidable. The number of detentions for segregation rose, from 111 in 1893 and 434 in 1894, to 784. The increase is common to all districts except Lakhimpur, but is especially marked in the case of the Surma Valley districts; it was due partly to the prevalence of cholera, and partly, it is to be hoped, to the importance of the segregation of tainted batches being more strictly insisted on. Cases so frequently occur of cholera epidemics on gardens being caused by the introduction of cholera-tainted batches of new coolies that it is impossible to exercise too great care in ensuring proper segregation of such batches at the depôts.

Mortality at Dhubri and during transit on the Brahmaputra.

12. The following figures show the number of deaths among all classes of immigrants at Dhubri and during transit from that place to the gardens of the Assam Valley districts for the last two years :

		Number of deaths.		
		From cholera.	From other causes.	Total.
At Dhubri		14	3	17
On board the steamer { Between Goalundo and Dhubri ...		25	5	30
On board the steamer { Between Dhubri and Dibrugarh.	(a) Goalundo coolies..	47	7	54
	(b) Dhubri „	17	4	21
At ports of debarkation—				
Gauháti		...	...	...
Tezpur		41	9	50
Silghat		3	...	3
Kokilamukh		21	5	26
Disangmukh		8	1	9
Nigriting		...	2	2
Mohanamukh		32	4	36
Total		208	40	248
Total for 1894		117	26	143

This statement differs from the corresponding statement in the report for 1894, having been modified so as to include all the deaths which occurred amongst immigrants on board the steamers between Goalundo and Dibrugarh. This accounts to some extent for the increase over last year's figures, in which only deaths occurring among immigrants shipped at Dhubri were included. Cholera was again prevalent, and, as in 1894, accounted for the greater part of the mortality. The mortality from cholera during the past eight years has been as follows : 1888, 771 ; 1889, 374 ; 1890, 22 ; 1891, 83 ; 1892, 233 ; 1893, 7 ; 1894, 117 ; and 1895, 208. In the early part of the current year the disease broke out more virulently than ever, and the importation of immigrants had to be temporarily stopped on that account. The question of the best means of checking mortality from cholera among immigrants in transit to Assam has constantly engaged the attention of this Administration for many years. In 1888, when there was a very large number of deaths from this disease, special enquiries were made into the transit arrangements, and orders were issued by Sir D. Fitzpatrick dealing with the defects in the system brought to light at that time. The mortality from cholera has fluctuated very considerably since 1888, but there has been nothing approaching the mortality of that year until the beginning of the current year. The exact figures of the number of deaths during the recent outbreak are not yet available, but it is known that the mortality was very heavy. The Chief Commissioner has, therefore, again reviewed the position and has come to the conclusion that the existing rules, if properly carried out, adequately provide, with a few exceptions, for the taking of all possible precautions for the prevention of the disease, and that what is now chiefly required is closer supervision of the subordinates upon whom the duty of carrying out these rules devolves.

The Chief Commissioner is now considering what steps should be taken in order to bring the procedure on steamers and at depôts into closer conformity with standing orders, but before dealing finally with the matter, he proposes to depute a medical officer next cold weather to enquire into the whole question of the arrangements made for the welfare of emigrants on board the river steamers and in the depôts, and will consult the Steamer Companies and other persons interested as to the best manner in which the defects which may be brought to light by the proposed enquiries may be remedied In the meantime, it may be noted that orders have recently been issued on the subject of the supervision of the sanitary arrangements on board the steamers, dealing more particularly with the protection of the water-supply on the steamers from all possible risk of pollution and with the more efficient segregation of cholera-tainted batches at Dhubri.

In addition to the sanitary measures here alluded to, the Principal Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner, Assam, has recently suggested that a scheme of anti-choleraic inoculation should be introduced in respect of all coolies recruited for Assam. This suggestion was referred to the Bengal Government for consideration, as any action which it might be decided to take in the direction indicated would have to be taken before the coolies are shipped on board the steamers. The Bengal Government has replied that it is proposed to establish a Pasteur's Institute in Bengal, and that if this is done, the question will be considered of calling upon it to undertake the inoculation of emigrant coolies against cholera. The Chief Commissioner is aware that there are many practical difficulties in the way of carrying out Dr. Stephen's suggestion, but as recent statistics go far to establish the prophylactic efficacy of inoculations according to Dr. Haffkine's method, he hopes that some means may be found of overcoming them. The necessity for taking all possible steps for the prevention of outbreaks of cholera amongst coolies during their transit to Assam is far greater than would appear merely from the statistics of mortality during the journey to the labour districts. As stated above in paragraph 11, the occurrence of cholera on board the steamers is responsible not only for a great many deaths on the steamers and at the debarkation depôts, but also for the occurrence of serious epidemics on the tea gardens, as the disease not infrequently spreads from the cholera-tainted batches to the old garden population. The Chief Commissioner believes that employers generally are thoroughly alive to the necessity for the segregation of all new coolies, but the practical difficulties in the way of entirely preventing all communication between new coolies and the rest of the garden population, amongst whom they often have relations and friends, are very great, and the disease often spreads in spite of all precautions.

It may be mentioned here that the Director General, Indian Medical Service, visited Assam in the early part of the current year, and recorded a note in which he animadverted on the hospital and feeding arrangements on board the steamers. A separate report is being submitted to the Government of India on this subject, but it may be stated here that, although it appears possible that the Director General was misinformed to some extent, the facts recorded by him confirm the view that greater supervision is required.

13. As stated in paragraph 10 above, the statistics of mortality among immigrants between Goalundo and the Surma Valley districts cannot be relied on. The following figures are based on the reports of the hospital assistants in charge of debarkation depôts in Sylhet and Cachar, and relate only to those labourers and their dependents who passed through the depôts :

Mortality during transit to the Surma Valley.

District.	Year.	Number of immigrants who passed through the depôts.	Deaths.		
			En route from Goalundo.	In hospital.	Total.
Cachar	1895	3,385	29*	20	49
	1894	2,243	13†	30	43
	1893	2,685	15	22	37
Sylhet	1895	10,840	10	35	45
	1894	6,061	4	10	14
	1893	4,912	6	7	13

* All on steamers.

† Four on steamers, and nine on country boats.

These figures, if they could be relied on, would go to show that the percentage of mortality for the three years covered by them was much the same. Apparently, no steps are taken to ascertain the mortality among non-Act immigrants.

Greater activity than usual was shown during the year in enforcing the rules under Act I (B.C.) of 1889. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar reports that he ascertained that overcrowding was taking place on the feeder steamers between Fenchuganj and Silchar and that he warned the steamer agent that prosecutions would be instituted if it continued. The overcrowding is said to have ceased since this warning, but the Deputy Commissioner reports that the mortality on this section of the journey was very high during the dry months, one reason being that the feeder steamers are so small that much difficulty is experienced in giving the coolies cooked meals. A further report has been called for in this connection, and the Deputy Commissioner has been asked to state whether the procedure for regulating the number of passengers carried by the steamers has been duly followed. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, reports that since the close of the year two medical officers in charge of steamers plying between Goalundo and Fenchuganj have been called on to show cause why they should not be prosecuted criminally for breaches of the rules under Act I (B.C.) of 1889.

Complaints were received of overcrowding on the steamers plying between Goalundo and Fenchuganj, but it has been conclusively proved, from enquiries made by the Bengal Government, that there was no foundation for these complaints, and that not a single case of overcrowding occurred during the year.

14. The same system was maintained as in previous years, of investigating cases of alleged fraudulent and irregular practices in connection with the recruitment and transport of labourers, and the large increase in the number of complaints during the year seems to show that the constant and watchful care bestowed on these cases by the executive authorities is recognised by the persons for whose benefit it is intended.

Fraudulent and irregular recruitment.

Writing on this subject, the Deputy Commissioner, Sibságar, says :

I do not think that the increase in the number of cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment necessarily shows that malpractices in connection with emigration are more prevalent than they used to be. It may be due to the fact that enquiries in these cases are now made more promptly and systematically than they formerly were ; and that the relatives of persons suspected to have been recruited by improper means are less disposed to have recourse to the courts, now that the new section 11A of the Act affords them a ready means of redress in any case in which there is reason to suspect that execution of the labour contract has been obtained by improper means.

As usual, Dhubri furnishes a large proportion of the total number of complaints. Enquiries are made at this station into three classes of cases *viz.*,—

Cases enquired into at Dhubri.

(*a*) in consequence of communications received from the district of recruitment, either in the form of a letter from the Magistrate or Subdivisional Officer, or District Superintendent of Police, or in the form of a petition or letter by post from the relatives of the persons supposed to have been fraudulently recruited ;

(*b*) on complaints made directly by the person concerned at Dhubri at the time of registration; and

(*c*) in cases in which no such complaint is made, when the registering officer thinks that it is likely that any fraud has been practised in the recruitment of women or young persons who come unaccompanied by relatives, and who seem hardly capable of looking after themselves.

The Deputy Commissioner has submitted a list of cases of the (*a*) class described above with an abstract of the complaints made, the action taken, and the result of each case. Altogether, 124 complaints of this class were received during the year, and there were 10 cases pending from 1893 and 1894, making a total of 134 cases for disposal during the year. Of these, 128 were disposed of. In 91 cases, the immigrants said to have been wrongfully recruited could not be traced, and there was nothing to show that they had ever come to Assam; in seven cases, the complaints were found to be groundless, the immigrants having executed agreements of their own accord to come up to, and labour in Assam. In one case, an immigrant who was enquired about by his father was found in one of the depôts and sent home. In another case, an enquiry was made about a woman, who was traced to the labour district, but the applicant could not be found subsequently at the address given by him. Seventeen cases were found to be not proved. One case was found to be true; it related to a boy who had been fraudulently recruited; he was traced to a garden in the Darrang district, and his contract was cancelled under section 11A of the Act.

Regarding cases of the (*b*) and (*c*) classes, the Deputy Commissioner reports as follows:

Cases of (*b*) description for 1895 are as follow:

Six persons, five males and one female, complained before the registering officer that they were recruited against their will, so they were all forwarded to the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, from whence they came. It was reported that no case was instituted by them against the recruiters. They were then sent back to their respective homes. A man complained before the registering officer that he was recruited against his will, and was not willing to go to Assam; he was ordered to be forwarded to the Magistrate of Raniganj, with the request to send him to his home, but absconded the next morning.

Cases of (*c*) description for 1895 are as follow:

In two cases, the attempt to trace the women's antecedents failed. In one case, the Magistrate of Midnapur states that the woman was of loose character, and that she came to Assam of her own accord to work in the tea estates, and that her husband and parents would not receive her back again. In two cases, no steps were taken by their guardians and husbands to recover the women, both of whom were of full age.

Since the close of the year under review, a case has come to light in which certain coolies were sent up to a garden in the Darrang district under contracts purporting to have been executed by them under the provisions of Act I before the Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri. The coolies, on their arrival in the labour district, denied having executed the contracts, and from the special enquiries which were instituted under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, it seemed doubtful whether they had ever appeared before the registering officer. The contracts were, therefore, cancelled under section 11A. The Deputy Commissioner, in explaining the procedure in force for placing coolies under contract, states that fraudulent substitution could only be effected at great risk. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, has since gone carefully into the matter, and has issued detailed instructions with a view to render the occurrence of such malpractices impossible.

As a further safeguard against malpractices in the recruitment and placing of labourers under contract at Dhubri, the Chief Commissioner has recently prescribed a system under which thumb impressions of all coolies placed under contract at Dhubri will be taken on both copies of their contracts and on the medical sheet (Assam Emigration Form No. 2). The contracts and a copy of the medical sheet accompany the labourer to the labour district, while the medical sheet itself is preserved in original in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára. A record will thus exist, both in the place of registration and in the labour district, to which reference can be made, for the purpose of identification, in the event of suspicion subsequently arising as to whether any particular labourer actually appeared before the registering officer at Dhubri and admitted execution of his or her labour contract.

Cases of fraudulent and irregular recruitment reported from the actual labour districts.

15. The following is an account of the cases of fraudulent and irregular recruitment reported from the actual labour districts. As noted last year, these are much more important than the cases reported from Dhubri, as in the latter cases enquiries are, as a general rule, made on mere suspicion.

In the Cachar district, there were 16 complaints, of which 6 were found to be true and 10 were not proved. The Deputy Commissioner gives the following account of the cases :

(1) One Dwarika Nath Haldar, of village Ratanpur, district Nuddia, complained of the fraudulent recruitment of his wife, Thakmoni Malini, who was a coolie woman under the name of Golapi at Jaffirband tea estate. On enquiry, the case was proved to be a true one, but when the Chief Commissioner's sanction was obtained to the cancellation of her agreement and her repatriation the Subdivisional Officer, Hailákándi, reported that she had absconded from the garden.

(2) One Ghoran Nunia of Goalundo, filed a petition before me that his wife, Jini Nunia, was fraudulently recruited to Hattia, an outgarden of Kuttal tea estate, by one Dasoi Nunia of that garden. Dasoi went to Azumgor, and told Jini that her husband had summoned her to Goalundo, where he was then living, and also said that he had paid Rs. 30 as her way expenses. She agreed to go, and Dasoi, instead of making her over to Ghoran, brought her direct to the garden. The matter was referred to the manager, who agreed to make her over to her husband on payment of Rs. 29-15-6, the cost of bringing her up. This sum being paid by Ghoran, the manager allowed Nunia to go away.

(3) One Ghasso, a coolie woman of Kumbir, complained on arrival at the Silchar depôt that she was fraudulently recruited from her home. Her deposition was sent to the Magistrate, Singbhum, for enquiry and report. The District Superintendent reported that she was fraudulently taken from her home by one Kartik Dom, a dismissed railway chaukidar. No further trace of this man was found. Ghasso was sent back to her country.

(4) and (5) Khiroda and her niece Nuni, by caste Bagdi, daughters of Haru and Hridoy Bagdi, of district Bankura, village Rampur, complained, on arrival at Silchar, that they were fraudulently enticed from their homes by one Labu *arkati*. Their depositions were forwarded to the Magistrate of Bankura, who, after enquiry, gave it as his opinion that they were induced to enter into labour contracts by fraud. Khiroda died of cholera before the reply was received from the Magistrate. Nuni's agreement was cancelled under section 11A, and she was sent back to her country with Khiroda's daughter.

(6) Sumor, a coolie woman of Bilaspur, complained on arrival at the Silchar depôt that she was fraudulently recruited from her village. Her deposition was forwarded to the Magistrate of Bilaspur, who reported that it appeared, on enquiry, that she was taken from her home by deceitful means. She was sent back to her village.

All these coolies were under three years' agreement and were recruited by contractors.

As for the 10 others, the agreements of 2 of them were cancelled under section 122, and they were sent back to their homes; the rest were sent to their respective gardens, as the District Magistrates concerned reported that no trace could be found of their relations mentioned in their depositions, and there appeared to be no substantial irregularity in their recruitment.

In all these cases, the contract was executed in the district of recruitment. Of those repatriated, all except the woman Jini were repatriated at the employer's expense.

In the Sylhet district, there were six cases, of which the Deputy Commissioner writes as follows :

(*a*) Two women of Bilaspur district, named Bean and Rookmin, bound for Lallamukh tea estate, Cachar, on landing at Fenchuganj refused to proceed any further. Both of them were under contracts executed at Purulia under the provisions of section 492, Indian Penal Code. One Jagannath, an old acquaintance of these women, took them to Purulia on the pretext that his sister's marriage would be celebrated there, at which their presence was required, and thence he brought them to Goalundo by railway. The hospital assistant in charge of the debarkation depôt at Fenchuganj brought this fact to my notice, and I caused them to be detained in the North Sylhet coolie depôt, and ultimately sent them back to their home.

(*b*) Four other cases were reported by the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet :

(1) Three Uriya coolies, Nil Kanta, Kripa, and Tankadhar, complained that they had been recruited by misrepresentation. As their story seemed not improbable, and the manager made no objection, they were sent back to their country at the garden expense.

(2) A batch of 15 coolies were sent up by Messrs. H. L. Mukherjee & Co. for the South Sylhet Tea Company. On reaching Maulvi Bazar, they refused to proceed further, and complained that they had been recruited by misrepresentation. They were ordered to go up to the garden, pending the result of enquiry into their complaints, as their agreements were in order and their stories seemed halting, but they absolutely refused to do so. The Company declined to proceed against them, being under the impression that the contractors were bound to deliver the coolies on the garden. The coolies were accordingly kept in Maulvi Bazar, copies of their statements being sent to the Magistrates of the various districts they represented themselves as having come from, and Messrs. Mukherjee and Co. were called upon to prove that the agreements were *bonâ fide*, and to take legal proceedings against the coolies within seven days. They failed to do so, and applied to have the coolies detained for a further period ; but, as there is no proper accommodation in Maulvi Bazar, the coolies were sent back to Messrs. Mukherjee & Co., at Goalundo, their travelling and depôt expenses being realised from that firm. The enquiries instituted in the various districts were in every case fruitless, and this, coupled with the stories of the coolies and suspicious manner in which they told them, leaves very little doubt that the complaints of fraudulent recruitment were absolutely false.

(3) Complaint was made to the Magistrate of Basti by a man Mangal that his wife Bachain and his child had been taken away without his consent. The woman and child were traced and forwarded to the Magistrate at Basti.

(4) A man named Logon complained to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum that his wife, Shohági, had been enticed away. The woman's statement was recorded and forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum. It appears that she was happy on the garden and had consoled herself with another husband. She was sent back to the garden till further information was received, but nothing more was heard of the complaint.

Considering the very large demand for coolies that prevailed during the past year, the fact that only six cases of fraudulent recruitment came to light is very satisfactory.

Two cases were reported from the Kámrúp district. The following are the particulars as reported by the Deputy Commissioner :

(1) On 2nd May 1895, one Keshab Ram Barua, of Gauháti, brought to my notice that three women, Shohagi, Bidhu, and Kulada, putatively named Makhan, Mati, and Kunta, respectively, of Raniganj recruited for the Barpani Valley Tea Estate, in the Nowgong district, had been enticed away from their home by an *arkati*. An enquiry was at once instituted. The result of the enquiry showed that the allegation was correct. The *arkati* was traced and punished with six months' rigorous imprisonment and with a fine of Rs. 40. The coolies were repatriated.

(2) One Rasik Chakravarti, of Rangpur, wired to me on the 25th July 1895 to enquire on board the steamer *Ibis* regarding a coolie woman named Manki, an inhabitant of village Madhapal, district Sambalpur, said to have been improperly recruited for the Thakurbari Tea Estate in the Darrang district. The woman was accordingly landed here and her statement recorded. An enquiry was made, with the result that one Hridoy Ganda, who had enticed her away and made her execute a contract under Act I of 1882 before the registering officer of Purulia against her will, was traced after much difficulty and convicted of cheating by the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur. He was punished with three months' rigorous imprisonment and with a fine of Rs. 25. Of this amount, Rs. 20 were ordered to be given to the complainant as compensation.

The woman Manki's contract was subsequently cancelled under section 11A, and she was repatriated at the expense of the employer for whom she was recruited.

In the Darrang district enquiries were made into 7 cases (including 2 cases which remained pending from the previous year). The Deputy Commissioner describes the cases as follows :

Panroo Majhi.—The contract of Panroo Majhi was cancelled under section 11A, Act I of 1882 and he was sent back to his home.

Kassi Bauri.—The final result of the enquiry into this case has not yet been reported from Bengal.

Suku Mahto.—The statement of the coolie was recorded and forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh, for enquiry and report as to the circumstances under which the man was recruited. From the report received, I found that there was irregularity in his recruitment. The contract was cancelled under section 11A, and the man sent back to his home at the employer's expense.

Kanai Rajwar.—At the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, the statement of Kanai Rajwar was recorded and forwarded to him. The case proved to be true, and the coolie had been improperly sent up. The contract was cancelled under section 11A, and the man was sent back to his home at the cost of the employer.

Musammat Jemi.—Enquiry was made at the instance of the Assistant Surgeon in charge, Tezpur coolie depôt. It was found that the coolie woman had been improperly recruited. The contract was cancelled under section 11A, and the woman repatriated at the employer's expense.

Musammat Fulkuer, alias *Mohori.*—The woman complained that she was recruited against her will. Her statement was recorded and a copy was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum for favour of enquiry and report into the circumstances under which she was sent up as a coolie. I have now recommended the cancellation of the contract under section 11A.

Mokhoda Paharin.—At the request of the Subdivisional Officer, Dumka, the statement of the coolie woman was recorded. The story as to the way in which she was enticed away from her country seems improbable, and does not justify any action being taken for the cancelment of her contract.

The case of Kassi Bauri dates from 1894, and the Deputy Commissioner will be asked to submit a final report at once. The contract of the woman Fulkuer has since been cancelled under section 11A., and she has been repatriated at the employer's expense.

There were 13 cases, involving 20 persons, in the Nowgong district. The Deputy Commissioner writes :

1. Two women, Sohagi and Somi, were prosecuted for desertion by the manager of the Nonai tea estate, when they made a long complaint to the Deputy Commissioner about their being wrongfully recruited. Copies of their statements were sent to the Magistrate of Burdwan for enquiry and report. They stated that they had executed contracts at Dhubri, and had no chance of complaining to the Deputy Commissioner there. The cases were referred to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, together with copies of their statements and of the report received from the Magistrate of Burdwan about their recruitment. From the facts, however, it appeared that their complaint was false, and that the cases were not such as to justify action under section 11A of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act I of 1882.

2. Three women, Bela, Manmat, and Pyari, all sisters, complained to the Civil Medical Officer, Nowgong, on his visit to the Rangamati Tea Estate on 8th March 1895, that they had been fraudulently recruited in Balaghat by three persons whose names they did not know. They had executed contracts at Dhubri without any complaint. Copies of their statements recorded by the Assistant Commissioner were sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Balaghat for enquiry into the circumstances under which they were recruited. That officer sent them a summons to appear in his court to give evidence in order to prosecute the accused persons. They neglected to obey the summons, and warrants were subsequently received from the Deputy Commissioner of Balaghat, but were returned unexecuted, the coolie women having absconded from the garden after service of the summons.

3. A woman, Larania, also complained to the Civil Medical Officer, on his visit to the Sagmutia garden on 5th March 1895, that one Ram Charan Kayat, *arkatis*, induced her to come to the railway station at Khagaul, saying that her husband was there and wanted to see her. She had executed a contract at Dhubri, and said she had no chance to complain to the Deputy Commissioner there. Copy of her statement was sent to the Magistrate of Patna for enquiry and report, but the contract of the woman was subsequently cancelled under section 122 of Act I of 1882 on account of permanent unfitness, and she was repatriated at the expense of the garden.

4. One Beni Mandal complained to the Subdivisional Officer, Deoghar, that his son Ram Mandal, aged about 13 years, had been kidnapped by one Prayag Sing and sent up to the Barpani tea garden of this district. Copy of the statement made by Ram Mandal, together with a certificate as to his age from the Civil Medical Officer, Nowgong, was sent to the Subdivisional Officer, Deoghar, who then sent a warrant under section 90, Criminal Procedure Code, for arrest of Ram Mandal. He was accordingly sent to Deoghar under police escort. The Subdivisional Officer reports that the accused Prayag Sing has absconded, and there the matter rests for the present. The contract was executed at Dhubri.

5. The District Superintendent of Police, Singbhum, requested the Inspector General of Police, Assam, to enquire regarding a woman Sakmutia Christian, said to have been fraudulently recruited and sent to Salona tea estate. Enquiry was accordingly instituted in both New Salona and Old Salona tea estates in this district, but no trace of the woman could be found.

6. At his request, copies of the statements of two women, Farkani and Manna, sisters, of Lengteng tea estate, were sent to the Subdivisional Officer, Rampurhat, who then sent warrants for arrest of these women, which were returned unexecuted, as no trace of the women could be found by the police. On further enquiry, however, it was found that Manna died of chronic dysentery on 25th August 1895 and Farkani is on the Lengteng tea estate. The Subdivisional Officer, Rampurhat, has since reported that the District Magistrate has ordered the case to be withdrawn. The contracts were executed at Dhubri.

7. Dipon and Kristamani, sisters, complained before the Civil Surgeon, Gauháti, and Assistant Surgeon, Tezpur, of wrongful recruitment. On arrival at the Sagmutia garden, the manager sent them to the Deputy Commissioner for examination. Copies of their statements were sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum for enquiry and report as to the truth of their statements, and the case was reported to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts. Enquiry was also made in the district of Bankura. From the facts reported, it appears that their statements were wholly unsupported, and no irregularity was proved. Their contracts were executed at Dhubri.

8. A woman, Gurubari, made a complaint to the Civil Surgeon, Gauháti, and Assistant Surgeon, Tezpur. On arrival at the Sagmutia garden, the manager sent her into court for examination. Copy of her statement was sent to the Manager of the Maurbhanj Tributary Mahals for enquiry and report. Her contract was executed at Dhubri. The case was referred to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts (together with report received from the Superintendent of Police, Maurbhanj), who declined to ask the Chief Commissioner to cancel the contract, as there was nothing to support the woman's statement that deception was practised upon her.

9. At the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, copies of statements made by Doman Hari and Baikunta Mahata of Coolikusie garden, were sent to him. He has been asked to report the result of the further action taken in these cases.

10. A woman, Hira *alias* Hasmat, complained to the Deputy Commissioner on his visit to the Lengteng tea estate that she had been enticed away in Nagpur by one Sivcharan, *arkati*, of Raipur, who brought her to Balaghat by force and thence to Purulia, where she executed an agreement, and then she was sent to the garden *viâ* Goalundo. Copy of her statement was sent to the Deputy Commissioners of Nagpur and Balaghat for enquiry and report, and her contract was sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, with request to enquire if she had executed it of her own accord. From the reports received from the officers addressed, it did not appear that there was any fraud in her recruitment, and the manager was informed accordingly.

11. The Deputy Commissioner of Raipur requested me to record and send copy of, the statements of Ahilla and Ghassine, said to have been enticed away by Bhulaki and Mongra, *arkatis*, in Raipur and sent to the Lengteng garden in this district. Their statements were accordingly recorded and copy forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Raipur, who has sent summons and subsequently warrants for arrest of these women. The date fixed by him for hearing the case having expired, fresh warrants have been issued and sent for execution.

12. Kinli Mohabir complained to the Deputy Commissioner, on his visit to Kellyden tea estate on 5th October 1895, that she had been enticed by one Madan Sing, *arkati*, in Midnapur, who sent her to the garden, saying that he had a house there, that she should live with him, and should get great ease. He got her placed under agreement in Calcutta. Copy of her statement was sent to

the Deputy Commissioner of Midnapur for enquiry concerning the woman's allegation. From the report received, it appeared that she was fraudulently recruited, and that the case was a proper one for cancelment of the contract under section 11A of Act I of 1882. It appeared, however, that the contract of the woman had already been cancelled by mutual consent at the request of the manager, and that she had been repatriated at the expense of the garden.

13. One Braja Napit filed an application before the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, stating that his brother, by name Asman Napit, aged about 13 years, was fraudulently taken from his home and sent as a coolie to the Nonai tea estate of this district, having been put under agreement for four years by the Deputy Commissioner of Dhubri. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum requested me to record the statement of Asman Napit and to ascertain his age. A copy of his statement, together with a certificate from the Civil Medical Officer stating that his age was 15 or 16 years, was forwarded to him. Subsequently, he requested me to ascertain whether the boy himself wished to have the contract cancelled. On enquiry, it was found that Asman Napit neither wanted to return to his country nor to have his contract cancelled. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum was informed accordingly.

The Deputy Commissioner will be asked to make further enquiries into the case of Ram Mandal, to ascertain whether such reasonable suspicion as to his recruitment exists as would justify the cancelment of his contract.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar reports as follows :

There were 31 cases of alleged fraudulent recruitment of labourers for this district during the year under review, against 25 last year. These cases related to the recruitment of 32 persons, of whom 25 were found on enquiry to have executed contracts at Dhubri, 3 to have executed contracts in the recruiting districts, while one was under a contract under Act XIII of 1859, executed on the garden for which he was recruited, and 3 were not traced. A brief note on each case is given below :

1. Two women of Raniganj, named Khudu and Himoo, under contract to the Jaboka Tea Company, complained on the steamer to the Assistant Surgeon at Tezpur that they had been induced to come to Assam by false pretences. They stated that they had been enticed to Raniganj by a promise that they would be taken to Calcutta to bathe in the Ganges, and from Raniganj had been sent to Dhubri. An enquiry was made by the Magistrate of Burdwan, who considered their story to be in the main true. The women's contracts were cancelled, by order of the Chief Commissioner, under section 11A of the Act, and they were repatriated at the expense of the employer.

2. An enquiry was made, at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, as to the whereabouts of a boy named Gouri Sahi, who was alleged to have been fraudulently recruited. The boy could not be traced.

3. At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, an enquiry was made into the circumstances under which a woman named Chandra Bowrin was recruited as a coolie for the Hunwal Tea Company's gardens in the Jorhát subdivision. The enquiry resulted in the prosecution of certain persons in the Manbhum district, but they were discharged for want of evidence.

4. The Deputy Commissioner, Goálpára, forwarded copy of a statement of one Sakuli Lahor, in which she stated that she was recruited as a coolie for Jaboka garden under false pretences. The manager of the garden repatriated the woman of his own motion.

5. One Suga Bibi complained to the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, that her daughter, Ulfat Bibi, was enticed away to Assam, and sent as a coolie to Singlo garden. On enquiry, it was found that the woman had quarrelled with her husband, and had been divorced. The complaint was dismissed at Manbhum under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and there was nothing in the circumstances of the recruitment, so far as they could be ascertained, to justify action being taken to cancel the contract.

6. At the request of the Deputy Magistrate of Dumka, enquiry was made as to whether one Kalu Paharia and two Sonthal girls had been wrongfully recruited as coolies for the Amguri tea garden. The people were not traced at Amguri, and the case which had been instituted at Dumka was dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

7. A complaint was filed at Deoghar to the effect that a boy named Mohar Hazra, aged 10 or 12 years, had been recruited by false pretences as a coolie for the Jaboka tea garden. On enquiry, Mohar Hazra was found to be a man of over 20 years of age. The person who recruited him was nevertheless prosecuted for cheating in the Deoghar Court, but was acquitted under section 258, Code of Criminal Procedure. No grounds for cancelling the contract were disclosed.

8. A complaint was lodged at Manbhum that one Bhikhu Kalu, aged about 16 or 17, had been enticed away and sent as a coolie to Meleng garden. On enquiry, it was found that the person named was of full age, and had executed the contract of his own free will.

9. The Subdivisional Officer, Raniganj, asked to have enquiry made as to the alleged abduction of a coolie named Babu Lall Bouri. It was found that the man was 25 years of age, and that he had not been forced to come to Assam as a coolie against his will.

10. A woman, Phulmani, an emigrant from Maurbhunj State, complained before the Subdivisional Officer, Jorhát, that a man named Ram Prasad had enticed her away from her house, where she had left her husband and child, promising to keep her ; that he afterwards said he would take her to Assam to see his house, and that at Dhubri he deserted her, leaving her with other coolies on a steamer, on which she came up to Assam. The matter was brought to the notice of the Superin-

tendent of the Orissa Tributary Mahals, who caused enquiry to be made, the result of which showed that the woman was of bad character, and her story probably untrue. The Superintendent did not think it necessary to take any further steps in the matter, as there appeared to be no good reason for supposing that any deception or other irregularity had been practised on the woman.

11. A complaint was made to the Deputy Commissioner, Lohardugga, that a boy named Ako Lahor had been sold to a coolie sardár, who had taken him as coolie to Dehingiapar garden in the Jorhát subdivision. On enquiry, it was found that the boy was 18 years old, and had executed a contract at Ranchi of his own free will, and that he was unwilling to go back to his country.

12. A complaint was made to the Magistrate of Midnapur by the relatives of one Kemi Bengaloni that she had disappeared from her house after having a quarrel with her husband's kept woman. The woman was traced to Bihubor garden. She stated that she had been enticed away from her husband's house. The Magistrate of Midnapur, however, after enquiry, dismissed the complaint, and there were no grounds for cancelling the contract.

13. A complaint was made before the Subdivisional Officer, Deoghar, that a woman, Koilyani, had been wrongfully recruited for the Jaboka tea garden. She stated that she had been enticed away by an *arkati* while she was collecting firewood in the jungle. The case was dismissed by the Subdivisional Officer, Deoghar. No reasons for reporting the case for cancellation of the contract were disclosed.

14. A complaint was made by two coolies named Soshi Bhusan Bhattacharya and Sairabhi Dassi, natives of Jamtara subdivision, that they had been induced to come to Assam by misrepresentation as to the work they would have to do. The Subdivisional Officer of Jamtara reported, after enquiry, that the man had eloped with the wife of a *goala*, and had got himself registered as a *goala* to escape detection and prosecution. No further action was taken in the case, as it appeared that there was no irregularity in their recruitment.

15. Two coolies, Sujan Maji and Jagadish Kuluni stated that they were induced by two *arkatis* to go to Raniganj, to work in coal mines, and thence they were sent to Dhubri, where their names were changed, and they were sent as coolies to Jaboka tea garden. The Deputy Magistrate of Dumka has written to say that the accused in the case have absconded and the case is pending.

16. The Subdivisional Officer, Rajmahal, requested enquiry into the circumstances under which one Mussammat Dholki left her home: she stated she was enticed away by a Dom from her house in Dumka and brought to Daubri, where she was made to give an agreement for four years, her name being entered in the contract as "Mongeu." The woman has been sent to Rajmahal under a warrant received from the Subdivisional Officer. The case is still pending at Rajmahal.

17. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas requested enquiry into the case of one Kush Mandal, who was alleged to have been recruited and sent as a coolie to the Sonari tea garden under false representations. The man was traced to a garden of the Jaboka Tea Company and his statement recorded; he said that he had quarrelled with his brother and mother and left his home, and while he was going to see his relatives in another village, an *arkati* met him and took him to a depôt, saying that he would be employed as chaukidar in a Saheb's bungalow on Rs. 10 a month. After five days, he was sent to Dhubri, where he was induced to give an agreement for four years to work as a coolie. Copy of his statement has been forwarded to the Magistrate of 24-Parganas. The case is pending.

18. The statement of a woman named Sobeji, of Jaboka tea garden, was recorded at the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum. She stated that one Bhikhu Mussalman enticed her to Raniganj to work there, and that thence she was brought to Dhubri. The Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, subsequently intimated that the woman who made this statement was apparently not the person in respect of whom complaint had been lodged in his court. The case was filed.

19. The Deputy Commissioner, Dumka, sent a summons for service on a woman named Luki Bourin, of Ghoirally tea garden, as a witness in a case of alleged wrongful recruitment. The garden referred to is not in this district.

20. A girl named Kusum, proceeding to the Singlo Company's garden, complained to the Native Doctor of the steamer that she was being taken there against her will. She alleged that she had been forcibly taken from her home by two men. The Magistrate of Bankura has asked that she may be sent back to her country. After enquiry, I came to the conclusion that there was reason to suspect that she had been recruited by improper means, and have recommended the cancellation of her contract under section 11A of the Act.

21. A complaint was made before the Subdivisional Officer, Raniganj, that a man named Andhor Gorani had been enticed away by a recruiter and sent as a coolie to the Jaboka tea garden. On enquiry, there did not appear to be any ground for cancelling his contract.

22. One Madhab, a coolie of the Jaboka tea estate, stated that he had been decoyed and made drunk by a man and woman, and while in that state had been taken to Raniganj by rail, and thence sent up to Assam. The Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, has written to say that there is no evidence to support a criminal charge under section 363, Indian Penal Code, against the persons accused.

23. At the request of the Subdivisional Officer, Rajmahal, an enquiry was made into the circumstances under which two persons named Giridhari and Pyari Chamarani were sent to the Rajmai tea-garden as coolies. They stated that a man named Jhoksa met them and induced them to go to his house on a short visit, and in the night they were sent by rail to Raniganj, where they were forced by threats to say that they would work for four years. The result of the case has not yet been communicated.

24. A charge of kidnapping two girls named Bhupi Guraitin and Somari Goraitin having been preferred in the court of the Deputy Commissioner, Lohardugga, enquiry with regard to them was made in this district, but they were not traced.

25. At the request of the Subdivisional Officer, Deoghar, the statement of one Jhoban Mia, aged about 14 years, employed in Suffrai garden, was recorded. He stated that he was taken to Raniganj by a recruiter, who told him that he would get Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 a month, and that he was then sent to Dhubri, where he signed an agreement. A copy of the statement was sent to Subdivisional Officer, Deoghar, who has now sent a warrant for the production of the boy before him.

26. At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur, the statement of a coolie employed by the Jorhát Tea Company, named Ram Chandra Rantia *alias* Ganthia, was recorded. He said that he signed an agreement at Dhubri through fear of being beaten and imprisoned; the case is pending before the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur.

27. Two Native Christian females, named Lakhipotia and Moti, complained to the Assistant Surgeon at Tezpur that they were put under contract under false pretences and sent as coolies to the Dessoi and Parbatia Tea Company's gardens: their statements were recorded at Jorhát and forwarded to the Magistrate of Purulia. The case is under enquiry.

28. At the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, enquiry was made about two persons named Gopal and Mussamat Lakhimoni, in the employ of the Assam Company. It was found that Gopal had died. Lakhimoni stated that her husband died three years ago and had no children, and, feeling very unhappy, she had left her house and come to Assam, and that she had executed a contract at Purulia of her own free will.

29. Complaint was made to the Magistrate of Midnapur that one Paddolochan had disappeared from his house in Midnapur, and was detained at Sapakati tea garden. On enquiry, it appeared that he had executed an agreement of his own free will.

30. Two women, Maloti and Thaka, made statements before the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Jorhát, to the effect that, while they were returning from bathing in a river, two men forcibly seized them and sent them to Dhubri, where they were compelled to execute contracts for four years to work as coolies in the Hunwal tea garden. They were cousins, and had left their husbands and children. The Magistrate of Bankurá has been asked to have enquiry made into the case.

31. Mussamat Kiron Bagdi stated before the Assistant Commissioner, Jorhát, that she was a resident of the Hooghly district, and was induced to come to Assam as mistress of a Babu, and that when she arrived at Dhubri she was made to sign an agreement. Copy of the statement has been sent to the Magistrate of Hooghly for enquiry.

The Deputy Commissioner will be asked to enquire further into the cases of Sujan Maji and Jagadish Kuluni (No. 15), Madhab (No. 22) and to ascertain if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting fraud in their recruitment, with a view to cancelling their contracts if this should appear to be the case. The contract of the woman Kusum (No. 20) has since been cancelled under section 11A.

The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur reports the following cases from his district:

At the end of the previous year two cases were still pending. In the first case, in which two women were sent down in order to give evidence in criminal proceedings against two *arkatis*, they were sent to their homes after having given evidence. The accused were discharged.

In the other case, which was pending owing to the difficulty of tracing the applicant's place of residence, the applicant's (Mussamat Jura) village and thana could not be found in Bilaspur, Raipur, or Sarguja, and the case was eventually ordered to be filed and shown as false.

Apart from these cases, which belong to the previous year, 59 cases came under notice in the course of the year. Complaints were made by the coolies themselves in 21 cases affecting 35 persons; by the relatives of coolies in 13 cases affecting 13 persons. Enquiries were held at the request of Magistrates in recruiting districts in 25 cases affecting 64 persons; of this latter class, two cases affecting 30 persons were complaints that voluntary immigrants destined for certain gardens had been seized and fraudulently sent to a different destination. Sixteen cases are still pending, affecting 25 persons. Eight cases were found true, affecting 9 persons. One case was found to be true as regards two persons, and no order has yet been passed with regard to another in the same case. Nine persons were ordered to be repatriated at the garden's expense; of these, one died in hospital at Dibrugarh. Four people were sent down to give evidence in the recruiting districts. In sixteen cases, affecting 19 persons, the allegation of fraudulent recruitment was not proved, while in 14 cases, affecting 44 persons, the cases are merely shown as "disposed of." These are mostly cases where statements have been taken for the information of Magistrates in the recruiting districts, and those Magistrates have not thought it necessary to take further action, on the ground that no fraud or other irregularity in recruitment was discovered. In 5 cases, affecting 7 persons, the complaint is marked as false and dismissed. In 31 cases, affecting 42 persons, women were complainants. Out of 110 coolies, 17 had executed contracts at Dhubri 20 at Purulia and 1 at Calcutta under Act I of 1882; 3 had executed contracts under Act XIII of 1859 and under section 492, Indian Penal Code, there were 3 contracts executed at Raniganj and 1 at Ranchi; the contracts of the remainder, 65, are not traceable. An abstract of each case is given below:

Case No. 1.—Two women complained to the Deputy Commissioner that they had been fraudulently recruited. On enquiry, it appeared that the Superintendent of Emigration at Bilaspur had had them duly registered before a Magistrate, and the case was struck off as false.

Case No. 2 (Act I Dhubri contract).—The statement of a woman was taken at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára. It appeared from a police enquiry made in Raniganj that the woman had been fraudulently induced to leave her country; her contract was cancelled, and she was repatriated, but the case against the recruiter collapsed for want of evidence.

Case No. 3.—The brother of a woman applied to the Chief Commissioner to have her contract cancelled. The woman's statement was taken, and it appeared that she was not fraudulently recruited, but had left her home voluntarily in a fit of anger. Her contract was redeemed under section 142, and she was sent back to her country at her own expense.

Case No. 4 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A complaint was made by a woman at Manbhum that her daughter had been forcibly recruited. The latter said that she went to see a ceremony by which cholera was warded off, and was then detained forcibly by two *arkatis*, who offered to go home with her, and eventually sent her to Assam. Two *arkatis*—not, however, those mentioned by the girl—were put on trial for kidnapping in Manbhum, but were discharged on the ground that the girl was not a minor. Further enquiries as to her recruitment showed that the statement of the girl made at Dibrugarh was not supported by a single witness, and no further action was possible owing to the absence of anything to show that there was anything irregular in the case.

Case No. 5 (Act I Purulia contract).—Five coolies were prosecuted under section 175 of Act I of 1882, and in the course of the trial two of them (Sonu and Ladu) complained that they had been sent to Assam by a man who promised them work at Raipur. Two from Bhandara (Jamur and Sankar) complained that they only came to work for two or three months, and Tiharu, from Bilaspur, made the same complaint. In the case of Sonu, it appeared that he was missed from home in the Chattisgarh Feudatory State, but, as there was no evidence of fraudulent recruitment, the case was ordered to be struck off. Of the man Ladu's relations, no trace could be found, and the thana mentioned by him was not in the district named. No trace of Tiharu's relations were found in Bilaspur, and both cases are shown as not proved for want of evidence. The police in Bhandara discovered that the stories of Sankar and Jamur were true, and the order for repatriation was given, but fulfilled only in the case of Jamur, Sankar having died of cholera.

Case No. 6.—The statement of a boy of about 20 was taken at the request of the Magistrate of the recruiting district. Eventually, he was sent down under a warrant of arrest to give evidence in a case against the *arkatis*, who were found guilty of cheating by fraudulently recruiting the boy.

Case No. 7.—A woman complained through Mr. Dowding of fraudulent recruitment. The woman died in the course of the enquiry, leaving a child, who was repatriated by the manager.

Case No. 8 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A woman telegraphed, saying that she was being brought up the river forcibly; she was detained on arrival and her statement taken. She had executed a contract before the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára, who remembered having explained it fully to her. Eventually, the woman was sent back to the recruiting agent by the manager of the garden, on the ground that she was unfit for work, the manager being aware that her case was pending in the court. Enquiry was instituted, and it was found that her case was a true one and that she had reached home.

Case No. 9.—Enquiry was called for in the case of a man, Kushta, on complaint of the State Judge of Maurbhunj, but it was not made, as the man had died.

Case No. 10 (Act I Purulia contract).—At the request of the authorities of Singbhum, enquiry was made into the manner in which 19 coolies were recruited. The coolies had been scattered in various directions, and it was found that one had absconded and not been discovered since. Besides this man, four others were traced to one garden, and their statements were recorded and sent to Singbhum. No information has since been received concerning the whereabouts of the remaining men or the result of enquiries in the recruiting district, in spite of frequent reminders.

Case No. 11 (Act I Dhubri contract).—At the request of the authorities of Manbhum, a woman was sent for and examined as to her age and the manner of her recruitment. She complained that she was forcibly seized and carried off: her contract was executed at Dhubri. Eventually, she was sent to Manbhum to give evidence in a criminal case against the recruiters, who were acquitted, as no criminal offence was proved. She was not sent back to Assam.

Case No. 12 (Act I Purulia contract).—A man was examined on the receipt of a complaint from his brother, living in the recruiting district. The man was a school teacher, who was offered work by an *arkati* and sent to Assam. He had never done coolie work before. The contract was cancelled under section 11A, and the man repatriated at the garden's expense. One Satiya applied that her contract should be cancelled under section 11B, but this was refused, as she was not the wife of the man. She was ordered back to the garden, but did not return there.

Case No. 13 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A man who was prosecuted for desertion, complained that he was an *arkati*, but that three years ago another *arkati* had seized him and sent him up as a coolie. The persons named in his statement could not say that he had ever been an *arkati*, nor was any corroborating evidence forthcoming, and the case was ordered to be filed. He could give no reason for not complaining before.

Case No. 14 (Act I Purulia contract).—The authorities of Manbhum asked that a man might be examined as to his recruitment, but it was found on enquiry that he had absconded from the garden.

Case No. 15 (Act I Purulia contract).—The father of a woman complained in the recruiting district that his daughter had been fraudulently recruited. Her own statement was to the effect that she had been brought up against her will: but no corroborative evidence of fraud or violence was produced, and the local agents of the garden declared that the statement was not true, as far as they

knew. Eventually, it was suggested that the manager should let her go, if he was not called upon to pay costs of repatriation. The manager agreed ; but no answer has been received to the request for payment of the cost of repatriation made to the woman's father through the authorities of Singbhum. The case is pending.

Case No. 16 (Act I Purulia contract).—The statement of a woman who was examined at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum disclosed that she had been induced to leave her husband for a few days, but had ultimately been sent to Assam as a coolie. She had executed an agreement in Purulia. She was sent down to Manbhum to give evidence in a criminal case, but the accused were acquitted on the ground that no fraud was proved. The woman was not returned to the garden.

Case No. 17 (Act I Purulia contract).—In a case of desertion, a woman accused said she had been enticed away by a man, who had sent her to Assam, though he first promised to keep her as his wife. Enquiry was made in the recruiting district, and it was found that she had been missed and searched for, but nothing corroborating her story was discovered. The Registering Officer sent a certificate saying that he fully explained the contract to her, and the case was found to be false.

Case No. 18 (Act XIII Purulia contract).—A woman complained at the coolie depôt on arrival that she had been induced to go with another woman by promises of presents and was sent to Assam. She had an agreement under Act XIII of 1859. The contract was cancelled, and she was repatriated at the expense of the garden.

Case No. 19 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A woman complained by telegraph that she had been fraudulently brought up the river. On arrival she stated that her step-sister had enticed her away, and given her to an *arkati*. She was not of a labouring caste. It was, however, conclusively proved that she had given an agreement willingly at Dhubri, where she had been specially examined by the Civil Surgeon, and it turned out that she was a prostitute, and that her relatives did not want her back. Her application was rejected.

Case No. 20 (Act I Purulia contract).—A woman complained on arrival at the coolie depôt that she had been seized by force and taken up to Assam by a chaprasi. Enquiry in the recruiting district proved that this was correct, and she was repatriated at the expense of the garden, the manager offering no objection. She had been placed under contract at Purulia.

Case No. 21 (Act I Purulia contract).—At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, a woman was examined. She stated that she had been put into a recruiting depôt by a man who promised to keep her. Further enquiry in the recruiting district showed that the contract was irregular, although there was not sufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution. The woman's husband was unwilling to prosecute under section 498, Indian Penal Code. She was repatriated at the expense of the garden.

Case No. 22.—A man complained by petition that he had been fraudulently recruited. He had worked on the garden two years without complaining, and his complaint was rejected.

Case No. 23 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A woman was examined at the request of the Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal. It appeared that she had left her country without the consent of her parents, but of her own accord, and that she had married on the garden. No further action was thought necessary.

Case No. 24 (Act I Dhubri contract).—In this case, the Deputy Commissioner of Goálpára enquired whether 11 coolies recruited for a garden in Darrang had been sent here. The coolies were identified by the sardár who recruited them, who stated that some *arkatis* had taken them forcibly from him in the recruiting districts. No record of any petition by him was found in that district, nor could the *arkatis* be traced. By an arrangement between the agents of the two gardens, the coolies were sent to their original destination in Darrang.

Case No. 25.—A boy who was examined as to his age (which proved to be over 17) at the request of the Subdivisional Officer of Dumka, stated that he had been enticed away from his country while herding cows in the jungle. A copy of his statement was sent to Dumka, but the proceedings were eventually dropped by the Subdivisional Officer.

Case No. 26 (Act XIII Purulia contract).—Complaint was made by a man to the Deputy Commissioner, Lohardugga, that his nephew had been fraudulently sent to Assam. The boy was between 13 and 17 years of age, and said that he had been sent to Assam against his will, and that his contract had not been explained to him. Further enquiry into the case is being made at Lohardugga.

Case No. 27 (Act I Dhubri contract).—The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum reported that two coolies had been sent to Assam under false pretences. One of them, it was found, had subsequently died. The other declared that he did not know where he was going when he was recruited, and that his agreement was not explained to him. The result of the enquiry was reported to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, who decided to take no further steps in the matter, as there was no evidence of fraudulent recruitment.

Case No. 28 (Act I Purulia contract).—On the complaint of her husband to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, a woman was sent for and examined. It appeared that she had given an agreement. The Manager of the Assensole depôt said that the husband had appeared there, but that the wife refused to return with him, preferring to go to Assam. The woman declared that she only heard her husband's voice, but could not communicate with him, as she was concealed. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, on receipt of this statement, called upon the husband to bring evidence of fraud or force, but none was forthcoming, and the case was dropped.

Case No. 29.—At the request of the District Superintendent of Police, Singbhum, who enquired about a boy, said to have been sent to a garden in Lakhimpur, enquiry was instituted, but no trace of the boy could be found.

Case No. 30 (Act I Dhubri contract).—The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga reported that a woman, Mussamat Etwari, was said to have been enticed away from her husband and sent to a garden in Lakhimpur. The only woman of the name who could be found there did not answer the description, nor could any traces of the lost woman be discovered. The men accused by the husband of the woman were discharged.

Case No. 31 (Act I Raniganj contract).—A woman complained on her arrival at Dibrugarh that she had forcibly been taken from her family by *arkatis* and put under agreement against her will. A copy of her statement was sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, who summoned her to give evidence in a case against the *arkatis*. The result of the case is not yet known.

Case No. 32 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A woman complained to the Deputy Commissioner that her husband had been sent to Assam as a coolie. The man's statement was that he had been fraudulently recruited, though a prosecution would not stand for want of evidence. The man had left a wife and family at home, and his departure was unknown to his wife. The case was filed, as the evidence was not satisfactory.

Case No. 33 (Act I Raniganj contract).—Two women, on arrival at Dibrugarh, complained that they had been fraudulently sent up under agreement by *arkatis*, who told them that Assam and Juggarnath (whither they were bound on a pilgrimage) were the same place. A police enquiry in their native district demonstrated the truth of their statements; their contracts were cancelled and they were repatriated at the expense of the garden.

Case No. 34 (Act I Raniganj contract).—A coolie complained that he was helping an *arkati* to take his coolies to a depôt and that the *arkati* detained him there and sent him up as a coolie. On enquiry, it appeared that the *arkati* mentioned was not known in the recruiting district, and the petition was rejected.

Case No. 35 (Act I Dhubri contract).—At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, a woman was examined. She stated that two men caught her, and, though she attempted to escape, took her to the depôt, whence she was sent to a garden. Enquiries into the matter are still proceeding.

Case No. 36.—The Deputy Commissioner of Singbhum reported that seven people, recruited by sardárs for a Darrang garden, had been seized by *arkatis* and sent here. Of the seven, it was found that one woman had died, three were very young, two of them declared that they were not recruited by any sardár of the Darrang garden, and that they wished to remain where they were. One woman has not been found. The case is pending.

Case No. 37 (Act I Ranchi contract).—At the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga's request, the statements of two coolies were taken. They admitted that they signed their agreements willingly after they had been fully explained, and it was found that there was no case of fraudulent recruitment.

Case No. 38.—A woman complained before the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga that her daughter had been sent to one of the Dehing Company's gardens. Enquiries were made through the manager and by the police, but the girl was not discovered.

Case No. 39.—The statement of a boy of about 20 was taken at the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga. He made no complaint, nor did it appear that any deception had been used to influence him, and no further action was taken.

Case No. 40 (Act I Purulia contract).—A man complained to the Magistrate of Bankura that his son had been sent to Assam without the knowledge of his family. The son's statement was taken, and the enquiry was proceeding, when he died in hospital, and the case was dropped.

Case No. 41 (Act I Purulia contract).—A woman complained on arrival that she had been induced to accompany a man, who said that her mother was ill and wanted to see her. He had sent her to Assam instead. The case is pending.

Case No. 42.—The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga enquired if two girls could be traced in any tea garden in this district. The police made an enquiry, but they could not be found.

Case No. 43.—The statement of a man named Mongla was asked for by the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhum. He had absconded from the garden, and has not been found since.

Case No. 44.—A boy of 12 years old complained, by telegram, from Bihalimukh that he was being carried up against his will as a coolie. He was ordered to be detained at the coolie depôt, but may have left before the order arrived. No one complained at the depôt, and no boy answering the description was found by the police among the coolies imported by that day's steamer.

Case No. 45.—Enquiry was made into the case of a Brahman and a Dom woman, who had been sent up as coolies. Subsequently, after the examination, the man was sent down by the employe to the recruiting agents, by whom he was never received. The woman was brought up by the Brahman, with whom she had an irregular connection. The Magistrate in the recruiting district was informed of the alleged return of the man, and the case is pending.

Case No. 46 (Act I Dhubri contract).—The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum asked that a man's statement should be taken. The man declared that he had been fraudulently recruited, but admitted that he had signed the contract without objecting. Ultimately, his father agreed to redeem the contract, and has been informed how much he will have to pay.

Case No. 47 (Act I Purulia contract).—A woman complained on arrival that she had been sent to Assam by a Babu, who offered to keep her. She was examined, and, as the police enquiry in her district confirmed her statement, she was repatriated at the expense of the garden.

Case No. 48 (Act XIII Purulia contract).—A man complained on arrival that he had been imported as a coolie under false pretences, but that he executed no contract. A contract under Act XIII of 1859 was filed by his employer. He absconded while the case was under enquiry.

Case No. 49 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A man complained by letter that his daughter had been enticed away and taken to Assam. The girl was examined, and declared that she had executed her contract voluntarily, and was unwilling to go back to her country.

Case No. 50 (Act I Purulia contract).—Five women complained on arrival that they had been enticed up to Assam under false pretences. The women came from two districts. One was sent down to Dumka at the request of the Magistrate to give evidence against the recruiter. The case of the other four is still under enquiry in Singbhum. All the women were put under contract at Purulia.

Case No. 51.—A coolie complained, by letter, that he and his kept woman were sent up from their country fraudulently, and that he was unable to appear in court, as the manager of the garden prevented him leaving the garden. Their statements were taken, and enquiry in the recruiting district proved that they had voluntarily taken agreements, and that their story was false. The manager denied that they had ever applied for leave to complain, and the complaint was rejected as false.

Case No. 52 (Act I Purulia contract).—One man and three women complained, on arrival at Dibrugarh, that they had been fraudulently recruited. The man said that he had been offered work at Goalundo, but that he had been enticed on board the steamer, which left immediately. All four had executed contracts at Purulia. Enquiry was made in the man's native district, but no corroborative evidence could be found there, and his application was rejected. The case of the three women is still under investigation.

Case No. 53.—At the request of the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga, a sardár named Ganga was examined as to the recruiting of a girl. He admitted being present at the making over of the girl by her husband to an *arkati*, and having conducted her to the depôt, but denied having imported her. The police enquired, and were unable to find that the girl had actually been imported by the sardár. The result of the enquiry was sent to the recruiting district, and the case is pending.

Case No. 54 (Act I Purulia contract).—The Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga called for the examination of a woman of 16 or 17 years of age. It appeared from her statement that she had been forcibly seized and put under contract. The case is still under enquiry in the recruiting district.

Case No. 55 (Act I Dhubri contract).—A woman, in her examination, which was held at the request of the Subdivisional Officer, Gobindpur, denied that she was recruited against her will, and said that she had left her husband, and did not want to return. The case is still pending the result of investigation in Gobindpur.

Case No. 56 (Act I Calcutta contract).—The statements of two women were taken in reference to a case of a kidnapping brought against their recruiters in the recruiting district. One was half-witted and the other admitted signing an agreement and coming to Assam voluntarily. Eventually, the accused in the criminal case were discharged, and no further action was taken with regard to the two women.

Case No. 57 (Act I Dhubri contract).—The Magistrate of Bankura reported that a coolie had been sent up fraudulently, under agreement. His statement was taken, but it did not show any definite fraud. However, the man was ultimately sent down to give evidence against the man who recruited him. The result of the case has not been received.

Case No. 58 (Act I Dhubri contract).—The brother of a coolie, Bishan, complained that Bishan had been recruited fraudulently. It appeared that the man had had his contract personally explained to him at Dhubri, and he admitted that he was glad to leave his country, where he was convicted for theft. The result of the enquiry was sent to the authorities of the recruiting district, and up to this time no further communication has been received.

Case No. 59 (Act I Purulia contract).—A man complained, on arrival at Dibrugarh, that he had been induced to go to Dhubri, in order to get some goods for another man; that on his arrival there he found that he was under contract: whereas he had been told that the contract paper related to the goods. The case is still pending enquiries in the recruiting district.

Case of Musammat Lalit.—In last year's Immigration Report, further enquiry was directed to be made in this case. The Magistrate of Bankura was asked to enquire. Eventually information, based on a police enquiry, was received, and it appeared that the woman's husband and father-in-law did not want her back. She had been in the habit of leaving her husband's house without his knowledge and going to her father's house. On one occasion, she went to Assam instead of her father's house. But the father cannot say how she was induced to emigrate, nor is any evidence on the point (apart from her own statement) procurable. No further action was taken.

16. The following table distributes by districts the cases of which details are given in the preceding paragraph, according as they were declared to be true, false, or not proved. The figures relate only to complaints in respect of labourers who actually reached the labour districts:

Statement of wrongful recruitment.

District.	Complaints.		True cases.		False cases.		Not proved.		Pending.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar ...	1	16	...	6	1	...	...	10	...	...
Sylhet ...	2	6	...	3	1	1	1	2	...	...
Kámrúp ...	1	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	15	5	6	4	4	...	3	1	2	...
Nowgong ...	1	13	...	1	...	4	1	5	...	3
Sibságar ...	25	31	4	2	13	10	4	10	4	9
Lakhimpur ...	32	59	5	10	13	14	12	20	2	15
Total ...	77	132	16	28	32	29	21	48	8	27

As stated in last year's report, Deputy Commissioners of labour districts were asked to show clearly in their reports for the year 1895, in respect of immigrants said to have been wrongfully recruited, whether they were under contract; and, if so, the nature of the contract, and where it was executed. An analysis of the replies received gives the following results:

District.	Number of cases.	Number of persons.	Number under contract.					Number not under contract.	Contracts executed in				
			Act I of 1882.	Act XIII of 1859.	Section 492, Indian Penal Code.	Civil contract.	Not stated.		Recruiting district.	Calcutta or Goalundo.	Dhubri.	Labour districts.	Not stated.
1	2	3	4					5	6				
Cachar ..	True 6	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..
	False	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Not proved .. 10	10	..	..	..	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..
Sylhet ..	True 3	5	..	..	2	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..
	False 1	15	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	15
	Not proved .. 2	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Kámrúp ..	True 2	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..
	False	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Not proved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang ..	True 4	4	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	..
	False	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Not proved .. 1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nowgong ..	True 1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	False 4	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	..
	Not proved .. 5	8	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	7	..	1
Sibságar ..	True 2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
	False 10	13	10	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	6	..	3
	Not proved .. 10	12	8	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	8	1	3
Lakhimpur ..	True 10	12	10	1	..	..	1	..	9	..	2	..	1
	False 14	18	11	..	..	..	7	..	7	1	4	..	6
	Not proved .. 20	49	40	1	..	..	8	..	23	..	18	..	8
Total ..	True 28	36	27	1	2	..	3	3	21	1	10	..	1
	False 29	52	27	..	..	..	25	..	12	1	15	..	24
	Not proved .. 48	82	55	2	..	..	25	..	33	..	33	1	15
Grand total ..	..105	170	109	3	2	..	53	3	66	2	58	1	40

This statement refers only to labourers who actually reached the labour districts. The figures differ somewhat from those in the preceding statement, owing to diversity of practice in the district reports. In some districts, the complaint of each person is treated as a separate case, while in others complaints made by two or more persons, either jointly or in reference to the same circumstances, are treated as one case. Cases pending have also been omitted from this statement. In many cases, the district reports are wanting in the details necessary to fill up the statement fully, and the figures are, therefore, somewhat incomplete. Moreover, in a large number of cases, the kind of contract under which the labourer was imported, and the place where the contract was executed, have not been stated. It is thus impossible to draw very accurate conclusions from the figures. So far as they go, however, they tend to show that most of the labourers said to have been irregularly recruited were under Act I contracts, and that, in proportion to the total number of such contracts, complaints are more numerous in respect of contracts executed at Dhubri than in respect of contracts executed in the recruiting districts. The figures for the recruiting districts are nevertheless sufficiently large to bear out the view which has been consistently expressed by this Administration throughout all the discussions which have taken place on the subject,* that initial registration is of no practical efficacy in checking malpractices in recruitment.

* See, *e.g.*, paragraph 18 of annual report for 1893, and paragraph 16 of report for 1894.

Figures showing the number of contracts cancelled under section 11A of the Act on the ground of wrongful recruitment, have been given in paragraph 27 of this report, but it will be convenient to discuss in this place the action taken under that section, since its enactment in 1893, so far as its effect on the remedy and prevention of malpractices in recruitment is concerned. From the statement given in paragraph 27, it will be observed that in 1893, the year in which the section was inserted in the Act, only one contract was cancelled under its provisions; in 1894, 14 contracts were cancelled, and in 1895, the number rose to 18; the system of taking action under the section has now been fully developed, and during the first seven months of the current year no less than 39 contracts have been cancelled on the ground that there were fair reasons for suspecting that irregularities had occurred in connection with the recruitment of the coolies concerned. The full effect of this new provision of the law is not, however, apparent merely from the figures showing the number of contracts cancelled under it; as will be seen from the details given in paragraph 15 above, the knowledge that the Local Administration possesses the powers conferred by this section is sufficient, in many cases, to induce the managers of tea gardens to repatriate coolies at their own expense as soon as they are satisfied that the coolies have been wrongfully recruited. It may also be pointed out that the operation of the section is not limited to the remedying of malpractices which have actually occurred, but that it also has the effect of tending to prevent the occurrence of such malpractices in future. The expense of recruiting and conveying a labourer to the labour district is considerable, and when to this is added the cost of repatriating him and, in some cases, of providing him with an escort, the total loss involved in each detected case of wrongful recruitment becomes very heavy. This loss falls, in the first instance, on the planter, but the planter has his remedy against the contractor, who supplied him with the labourer repatriated, so that sustained action under section 11A must ultimately result in such a heavy charge on contractors sending up labourers who have been wrongfully recruited, that it will make them very careful to see that the *arkatis* working under them abstain from illegal practices, and that no coolies who appear to have been wrongfully recruited are sent on to the labour districts.

It may thus fairly be anticipated that the prompt measures which are now being taken in all cases in which there are any grounds for suspecting that irregularities have occurred, will, in course of time, lead to a material reduction in the number of such cases.

CHAPTER II.

LABOUR FORCE.

Statistics of the labour force.

17. The following figures, taken from the statement which forms an Appendix to this report, shows the additions to, and deductions from, the total labour force of the province during the year 1895:

Labour force remaining at the end of 1894 (column 2 of statement appended to the Report)		493,984
ADDITIONS—		
Imported by contractors or garden sardárs, including free labourers and dependents imported direct (columns 3, 4, and 5 of statement)	72,837	
Local labour contracts entered into under sections 111 and 112 of Act I of 1882 (columns 6 and 7 of statement)	26,327	
Received from other gardens (column 8 of statement)	9,510	
Deserters recaptured (column 9 of statement) ...	791	
Remaining after expiry of contract (column 10 of statement)	26,975	
Otherwise obtained (column 11 of statement) ...	31,655	
Births	11,692	
Total	179,787	
DEDUCTIONS—		
Transferred to other gardens (column 16 of statement)	7,658	
Left with permission or on expiry of contract (columns 17 and 27 of statement)	67,761	
Deaths (column 18 of statement)	17,740	
Desertions (column 19 of statement)	21,390	
Free labourers put under contract (columns 21 and 22 of statement)	18,787	
Contracts cancelled under sections 111, 140, or 177, Act I of 1882 (column 23 of statement)	18	
Contracts cancelled under section 122 (column 24 of statement)	1,277	
Contracts cancelled under section 129 (column 25 of statement)	242	
Contracts redeemed under section 142 (column 28 of statement)	8	
Contracts dissolved by mutual consent (column 29 of statement)	1,578	
Total	136,459	
Net increase during the year		43,328
Grand total at the close of the year		537,312

The total labour force at the end of 1895 was 8·7 per cent. in excess of the number at the end of the previous year.

Contracts cancelled under section 11A of the Act have been included in the district reports under different headings. There is no column in the present form of the returns under which contracts so cancelled can be shown separately, but steps will be taken to amend the form so as to allow of this being done in future.

Mean strength of the labour force.

18. The statement below shows the total labour force at the beginning of each of the last three years, and the mean strength for the two half-years of 1895 :

Class of labourers.	1st January 1893.	1st January 1894.	1st January 1895.	1st July 1895.	Mean strength for the first half-year of 1895.	31st December 1895.	Mean strength for the second half-year of 1895.
Act adults	117,529	119,795	116,550	122,451	119,500	125,798	124,124
Non-Act Adults	172,497	179,348	192,372	220,741	206,556	216,091	218,416
Non-Act Children	171,219	179,133	185,062	194,827	189,944	195,423	195,125
Total	461,245	478,276	493,984	538,019	516,001	537,312	537,665

District figures of the labour force.

19. The total labour force of each district and the variations in strength during the year 1895 are given below :

District.	1st January 1895.	31st December 1895.	Percentage of total Provincial force.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
Cachar	107,464	112,272	20·9	+ 4,808	+ 4·5
Sylhet	104,857	122,693	22·8	+ 17,836	+ 17·0
Total Surma Valley	212,321	234,965	43·7	+ 22,644	+ 10·7
Kámrúp	3,305	3,562	·7	+ 257	+ 7·8
Darrang	54,442	59,663	11·1	+ 5,221	+ 9·6
Nowgong	16,551	17,603	3·3	+ 1,052	+ 6·4
Sibságar	113,658	120,276	22·4	+ 6,618	+ 5·8
Lakhimpur	93,707	101,243	18·8	+ 7,536	+ 8·0
Total Assam Valley	281,663	302,347	56·3	+ 20,684	+ 7·3
Grand total	493,984	537,312	100·0	+ 43,328	+ 8·8

Nationality and sex of the adult labour force.

20. The following table shows the nationality and sex of the adult labour force during the last two years :

Nationality.	Sex.	Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Ratio of nationality.
		1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengal. Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Men ...	36,267	37,902	38,698	41,469	74,965	79,371	45·3
	Women...	32,145	32,778	40,299	42,614	72,444	75,392	
Bengal. Behar	Men ...	4,934	5,118	7,316	8,326	12,250	13,444	7·3
	Women...	3,895	4,134	6,872	7,263	10,767	11,397	
Bengal. Bengal Proper and Orissa.	Men ...	9,661	9,877	20,312	21,927	29,973	31,804	19·6
	Women...	10,823	10,617	23,217	24,666	34,040	35,283	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	4,586	5,928	21,016	25,200	25,602	31,128	17·5
	Women...	3,885	4,576	19,915	24,181	23,800	28,757	
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	1,736	4,986	845	1,961	2,581	6,947	3·3
	Women...	1,326	3,258	515	1,075	1,841	4,333	
Madras	Men ...	2,322	2,168	2,273	2,761	4,595	4,929	2·7
	Women...	1,747	1,563	2,421	2,788	4,168	4,356	
Bombay	Men ...	8	20	34	90	42	110	
	Women...	4	3	18	86	22	89	
Nepal	Men ...	45	52	93	153	138	205	·2
	Women...	27	22	71	137	98	159	
Assam	Men ...	1,735	1,437	6,334	8,643	8,069	10,080	4·1
	Women...	1,404	1,354	2,123	2,751	3,527	4,105	
Total	Men ...	61,294	67,488	96,921	110,530	158,215	178,018	...
	Women...	55,256	58,310	95,451	105,561	150,707	163,871	
Grand total	...	116,550	125,798	192,372	216,091	308,922	341,889	...

N.B.—The differences between the entries in columns 3 and 7 and those in columns 4 and 8 of the statement embodied in paragraph 20 of the report for 1894 are explained at the foot of the statement at the end of this report.

The proportion of labourers of each nationality has not changed much since last year. The North-Western Provinces and Oudh, however, have gained slightly at the expense of Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, and Bengal Proper and Orissa.

The following figures show the number of labourers of each nationality who are employed in each of the two principal divisions into which the tea districts of the province fall :

	Surma Valley.	Assam (Brahmaputra) Valley.
Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas	35,970	118,793
Behar	13,613	11,228
Bengal Proper and Orissa	36,801	30,286
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	49,275	10,610
Central Provinces	2,679	8,601
Madras	5,559	3,726
Bombay	164	35
Nepal	226	138
Assam	479	13,706

The percentage of Act and non-Act and all adult labourers belonging to each nationality is shown below :

Nationality.	1894.	1895.		
	Total.	Act labourers.	Non-Act labourers.	Total.
Bengal — Chota Nagpur	47·7	56·2	38·9	45·3
Bengal — Behar	7·5	7·3	7·2	7·3
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa	20·7	16·3	21·6	19·6
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	16·0	8·3	22·9	17·5
Central Provinces	1·4	6·6	1·4	3·3
Madras	2·9	3·0	2·6	2·7
Assam	3·8	2·2	5·3	4·1
Nepal	...	·1	·1	·2
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Mean strength of the labour force in each district.

21. The mean strength of the labour force in each district for each half-year of 1895 and for the whole year is shown in the following table. The percentages of mortality and desertion are calculated on these figures.

District.	Act.			Non Act. — Adults.			Non Act. — Children.			Total annual strength.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual mean.
Cachar	6,891	6,821	6,856	61,356	62,875	61,580	42,252	42,278	42,265	109,500	111,904	110,701
Sylhet	10,727	11,725	11,226	57,498	62,452	59,975	44,979	47,946	46,462	113,205	122,123	117,664
Kámrúp	658	598	628	1,671	1,874	1,772	1,130	1,116	1,123	3,459	3,588	3,523
Darrang	23,672	24,631	24,152	15,652	16,532	16,092	17,914	18,685	18,300	57,239	59,849	58,544
Nowgong.. ..	4,518	5,066	4,792	7,318	7,327	7,322	5,963	5,872	5,887	17,799	18,265	18,002
Sibságar	36,683	37,319	37,003	35,409	37,004	36,206	45,565	46,648	46,106	117,663	120,972	119,317
Lakhimpur ..	36,345	37,963	37,154	28,651	31,420	29,535	32,199	32,579	32,389	97,196	100,964	99,080
Total	119,500	124,124	121,812	206,556	218,416	212,486	189,944	195,125	192,534	516,001	537,665	526,833

CHAPTER III.

CONTRACTS AND WAGES.

Number of contracts made.

22. The number of labour contracts under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act executed in 1895 is shown below, and compared with the number executed in 1894 :

	1894.	1895.	Percentage of increase or decrease.
In the actual labour districts under section 111 of the Act	13,141	14,885	+13·2
„ „ „ „ 112 „ „	8,647	11,442	+32·3
At Dhubri under section 112 A	12,464	8,825	−29·2
In the recruiting districts	14,807	23,141	+56·3
Total	49,059	58,293	+18·8

There was a very large increase in the number of contracts of all kinds except in those executed under section 112A, at Dhubri. The figures will be more fully discussed in the next paragraph.

As stated in last year's report, a very large number of contracts are executed under Act XIII of 1859 (an Act to provide for the punishment of breaches of contract by artificers, workmen, and labourers in certain cases) ; a certain number are also executed

under section 492 of the Indian Penal Code. Contracts of the latter description are comparatively rare, but contracts under Act XIII of 1859 are very commonly taken from labourers on the expiry of their initial contracts under Act I of 1882. This is especially the case in the Surma Valley districts; in those districts, too, many immigrants imported as free labourers, are placed under Act XIII contracts on their first arrival on the garden. There are no statistics available to show the exact number of labourers under such contracts at the present time, but the number is very large. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, says—"No reliable information is available. It is probable, however, that some 20 to 25 per cent. of the total free adult force in the district are under such contracts." As stated in paragraph 22 of last year's report, Deputy Commissioners were asked to report fully in their reports for 1895 on the extent to which recourse was had, in the recruitment of immigrants, to the provisions of section 492 of the Indian Penal Code. The information received is, however, still incomplete; so far as they go, the reports show that the number of contracts enforceable under section 492, Indian Penal Code, executed in the past two years by labourers imported into the various districts was as follows:

	1894.	1895.
Cachar	169	286
Kámrúp	*Nil.*	5
Darrang	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
Nowgong	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
Sibságar	1	3,268
Lakhimpur	460	1,564

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet reports his inability to furnish statistics. He says:

Agreements under section 492, Indian Penal Code, are almost unknown in this district. Almost all the managers were addressed on the subject. The few who replied, almost without exception, treated Act I as the Penal Code, and sent in returns of contracts under that Act. After such further enquiry as was possible, I came to the conclusion that agreements under the Penal Code were very rare.

In Sibságar, the number of labourers imported under these contracts rose from 1 to 3,268. The Deputy Commissioner writes:

Reports received from employers show that 3,268 labourers were imported during the year under ordinary civil contracts enforceable under section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, *viz.*, 2,621 imported into the sadr subdivision, 401 to Jorhát, and 246 to Golághát. These contracts have been used somewhat extensively by a special agency for obtaining labour which has been established in the Sonthal Parganas with the object of doing away with the necessity of employing contractors. There was only one conviction under section 492 of the Indian Penal Code during the year, the accused being sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment.

The special agency referred to by the Deputy Commissioner is what is called the "Sonthal Parganas District Emigration Scheme" in the Report of the Bengal Labour Enquiry Commission, 1896, and is discussed in paragraphs 94-97 of that Report. The Deputy Commissioner appears to assume that the vast majority of the 3,268 contracts executed in 1895 were executed by immigrants under this scheme, as he has offered no other explanation of the increase. From the figures given in paragraph 95 of the Commission's Report, however, it would appear that only 1,274 coolies were despatched under the scheme to Assam between August 1894 and December 1895, both months inclusive, and these figures include, besides those despatched to the Sibságar district, a number of coolies for Darrang. Assuming that the figures supplied to the Commission by Mr. Adlam, the local manager of the scheme at Dumka, are correct, and that the number of contracts enforceable under section 492 has been correctly returned by the managers to the Deputy Commissioner, there would appear to have been a considerable increase in the extent to which these contracts are resorted to, quite apart from the Sonthal Parganas District Emigration Scheme. But it is doubtful if the latter of these assumptions can be made. The confusing of Act I of 1882 with the Indian Penal Code, referred to by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, is by no means an uncommon error among planters, and it is probable that many of the contracts returned by employers in the sadr subdivision of the Sibságar district as enforceable under section 492 were really contracts under Act I of 1882. On the whole, leaving aside the Sonthal Parganas scheme, the Chief Commissioner does not think the system of recruiting immigrants under contracts enforceable under section 492 prevails to any appreciable extent in the province. It is not very clear what led those responsible for the Sonthal Parganas scheme to place the labourers so recruited under contracts enforceable under section 492, Indian Penal Code, instead of under Act I of 1882, but one of the chief reasons appears to have been that the operation of the Penal Code section is milder than that of the provisions of the special Assam labour law.

The Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, has given no explanation of the large increase in his district in the number of contracts under the Penal Code. He reports, however, that these contracts are entered into chiefly by the Assam Railways and Trading Company.

In this connection, reference may be made to a practice which has recently been found to exist in certain recruiting districts in Bengal of drawing up contracts under Act XIII of 1859, or section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, in such a form as to be indistinguishable, at first sight, or to a person ignorant of English, from the documents evidencing contracts under Act I of 1882, and of getting them registered before the registering officers appointed under section 8 of Act I of 1882 in the same way as if they were contracts under that Act. This practice being open to obvious objections, the Government of Bengal was addressed on the subject, and orders have now been issued by that Government prohibiting the registration of such contracts by officers who are registering officers under Act I of 1882.

Nationality of labourers making local contracts.

23. The following table shows the number of local contracts executed under sections 111 and 112 of the Act, and the sex and nationality of the labourers entering into such contracts :

District.	Sex.	Contracts under section 111.	Contracts under section 112.	Particulars of columns 3 and 4 by nationality.									Total of columns 3 and 4.
				Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Behar.	Bengal Proper and Orissa.	North Western Provinces and Oudh.	Central Provinces.	Madras.	Bombay.	Nepal.	Assam.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	Men ...	134	371	57	42	142	172	78	14	...	...	...	505
	Women ...	216	481	102	73	200	273	45	4	...	...	...	697
	Total of 1895	*350*	*852*	*159*	*115*	*342*	*445*	*123*	*18*	...	...	...	*1,202*
	„ „ 1894	163	876	202	186	118	492	41	...	...	...	...	1,039
Sylhet ...	Men ...	2,153	888	718	415	403	950	39	510	...	2	4	3,041
	Women ...	1,280	554	349	193	366	560	11	354	...	...	1	1,834
	Total of 1895	*3,433*	*1,442*	*1,067*	*608*	*769*	*1,510*	*50*	*864*	...	*2*	*5*	*4,875*
	„ „ 1894	3,709	755	1,208	740	1,153	437	73	845	...	2	6	4,464
Kámrúp	Men ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Women ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total of 1895	...	*1*	*1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1*
	„ „ 1894	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Darrang ...	Men ...	2,142	1,095	1,540	152	297	190	47	153	...	...	858	3,237
	Women ...	1,871	524	1,081	145	352	161	30	148	...	...	478	2,395
	Total of 1895	*4,013*	*1,619*	*2,621*	*297*	*649*	*351*	*77*	*301*	...	...	*1,336*	*5,632*
	„ „ 1894	3,125	1,175	2,198	174	440	223	11	193	...	5	1,056	4,300
Nowgong	Men ...	290	112	256	9	86	17	37	2	...	...	1	402
	Women ...	234	17	147	14	60	10	19	...	...	...	1	251
	Total of 1895	*524*	*129*	*403*	*23*	*146*	*27*	*56*	*2*	...	...	*2*	*653*
	„ „ 1894	218	117	206	32	65	4	4	11	...	1	12	335
Sibságar	Men ...	1,622	2,700	2,778	429	504	224	51	105	...	...	231	4,322
	Women ...	1,554	2,125	2,361	329	569	162	35	93	...	...	130	3,679
	Total of 1895	*3,176*	*4,825*	*5,139*	*758*	*1,073*	*386*	*86*	*198*	...	...	*361*	*8,001*
	„ „ 1894	3,190	4,159	4,666	618	958	355	18	119	...	...	615	7,349
Lakhimpur	Men ...	1,832	1,555	2,634	148	289	56	121	104	3	3	29	3,387
	Women ...	1,557	1,019	1,970	103	315	31	88	58	...	...	11	2,576
	Total of 1895	*3,389*	*2,574*	*4,604*	*251*	*604*	*87*	*209*	*162*	*3*	*3*	*40*	*5,963*
	„ „ 1894	2,729	1,565	3,512	110	360	66	81	130	2	...	33	4,294
	Grand total of 1895	*14,885*	*11,442*	*13,994*	*2,052*	*3,683*	*2,806*	*595*	*1,545*	*3*	*5*	*1,744*	*26,327*
	„ „ „ 1894	13,141	8,647	11,992	1,860	3,094	1,577	223	1,298	2	8	1,729	21,788

The figures show that there has been a considerable increase in the number of local contracts executed under the Act, and that the increase was common to all districts except Kámrúp, which, however, is a district of very small importance, so far as the tea industry is concerned. The number of contracts executed under section 111 direct between employer and labourer without the intervention of a Government officer rose from 13,141 in 1894 to 14,885 in 1895. In 1892 and 1893 the figures were 21,050 and 18,610 respectively. There has thus been a check in the gradual decrease in the number of these contracts which took place during the previous two years consequent on the amendment of the Act in 1893, limiting the period of contracts under section 111 to one

year only. There was, however, a further increase in the number of contracts executed under section 112 in the presence of a Government officer. The number of such contracts executed in 1892 was only 868. In 1893, the year in which section 111 was amended as described above, the number of contracts under section 112 rose to 2,703; in 1894 it further increased to 8,647, and in the year under report it was 11,442. As stated in last year's report, this gradual increase is solely attributable to the amendment of section 111 of the Act in 1893. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibságar, in whose district there was a small decrease in the number of contracts under section 111, is of opinion that the decrease would have been greater but for the practice which has sprung up in some gardens of placing coolies temporarily under contracts under section 111 until an Inspector visits the garden, when the contracts are dissolved by mutual consent and fresh ones under section 112 substituted. The Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, explains the increase in the number of contracts executed under section 112 in his district by saying that the opening and extension of the Tezpur-Balipara tramway have afforded increased facilities of communication between the headquarters station and outlying gardens. The general result of the amendment of section 111 has been to maintain the total number of local contracts under the Act at much the same figure as it was before the alteration in the law. Planters, as a rule, have no abstract preference for either kind of contract, but they prefer contracts under section 112 because such contracts can be made for a longer term, and because the coolies generally prefer them on account of the larger bonus they receive with contracts for terms exceeding one year. A lump sum of ready money is a very great boon to a coolie on the expiry of the term of his original agreement, as it enables him, with his savings, to purchase cattle or poultry, which add very materially to his comfort. If, therefore, a Magistrate's presence could be easily secured, planters would probably prefer to have all contracts executed in his presence. Contracts, however, expire at irregular intervals throughout the year, and visits from a Magistrate are necessarily rare. In order to execute contracts for periods exceeding one year, it is, therefore, usually necessary to send the coolies to the Magistrate's headquarters. In the case of gardens near the headquarters station, the inconvenience caused by this necessity is slight, and amounts only to the loss of the coolies' labour during the journey: but many gardens are situated at long distances from a Magistrate's headquarters, and communications are frequently difficult, and in the case of these outlying gardens the inconvenience entailed by the necessity of appearing before a Magistrate or Inspector to execute the contract is considerable; it is in the case of such gardens that the practice alluded to by the Deputy Commissioner of Sibságar is resorted to. Often, however, the usual bonus is given without any temporary contract being made, it being understood between the employer and labourer that a contract will be executed when the Inspector next visits the estate, the intervening period being deducted from what would have been the term of the contract had it been executed on the date when the bonus was given. It is a satisfactory test of the relations between employers and employed that disputes very rarely arise out of these arrangements.

Details of local contracts.

24. The following table gives details of local contracts executed in the actual labour districts, the classes of labourers who entered into them, and the periods of the contracts:

District.	Section 111.	Section 112.	Class of labourers.				Number of years.					
			Newly imported.	Time-expired.	Old Act coolies transferred.	Local.	Under one year.	One.	Two.	Under two and a half.	Three.	Four.
Cachar	350	852	832	370	...	...	...	365	20	...	750	67
Sylhet	3,433	1,442	1,385	3,066	...	424	...	3,433	111*	...	1,322	9
Kámrúp... ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Darrang... ...	4,013	1,619	...	4,101	...	1,531	43	4,039	1,073	1	333	143
Nowgong ...	524	129	....	229	...	424	...	552	26	...	31	44
Sibságar ...	3,176	4,825	471	5,681	...	1,849	381	3,651	2,695	12	1,209	53
Lakhimpur ...	3,389	2,574	69	5,880	...	14	...	3,389	1,913	13	360	288
Total of 1895 ...	14,885	11,442	2,758	19,327	...	4,242	424	15,429	5,838	26	4,006	604
„ „ *1894* ...	*13,141*	*8,647*	*1,962*	*18,156*	...	*1,670*	*279*	*13,771*	*4,385*	*38*	*2,698*	*617*

* This includes three contracts for one year and eleven months.

There has been an increase in the number of contracts for one year and under and a still greater increase in the number of contracts for two and three years. In the Sylhet district, the South Sylhet subdivision returned 3,271 out of the total of 3,433 contracts for one year under section 111, the whole of the 111 contracts for two years and 1,109 out of the 1,322 contracts for three years, under section 112; 1,198 of these contracts were executed by newly-imported labourers. The Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, says :

It should be noted that, in this subdivision at least, contracts for a longer period than three years are rarely, if ever, given. A newly-imported coolie generally either comes up under a three years' agreement or executes one here under section 112 shortly after his arrival. When his time has expired, he either gives an agreement for one year under section 111, or receives an advance and is considered as under agreement for one year under Act XIII of 1859.

The Deputy Commissioner states that the increase in the total number of local contracts executed under the Act in the Sylhet district was due to the same causes which operated to produce a similar increase in the previous year, *viz.*, (*a*) the competition for labour in consequence of the construction of the railway, and the consequent necessity which planters are under of protecting themselves against the risk of their labourers deserting, or being enticed away, to the railway works, and (*b*) large importations of new coolies by the South Sylhet Tea Company, a large proportion of whom are imported as free labourers and placed under three-years' contracts under Act I of 1882 after arrival in the labour districts, the contracts being executed under section 112 of the Act in the presence of a Magistrate.

The increase of 888 contracts under section 111 in the Darrang district was due to an increased number of Kacháris being engaged locally and placed under contract in the Mangaldai subdivision.

25. The following figures show the periods of the contracts executed at Dhubri in 1894 and 1895 :

Period of contracts executed at Dhubri.

Year.	Three-year contracts.			Four-year contracts.			Total contracts.		
	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.	Labourers.	Dependents.	Total.
1894	593	231	824	11,871	4,753	16,624	12,464	4,984	17,448
1895	177	49	226	8,648	2,929	11,577	8,825	2,978	11,803

The decrease in the proportion of contracts for three years which was commented on last year, has continued during the year under report. In 1893, out of a total of 13,567 contracts executed at Dhubri, 1,073 were for three years, and 12,494 for four years and over. In 1894, when the maximum period allowed had been reduced to four years, 593 contracts were executed for three years and 11,871 for the full term of four years, while in the year under review only 177 contracts were for three years, against 8,648 for four years. The district reports are silent as to the cause of this falling off in the popularity of short term contracts, but it is known that planters in the Brahmaputra Valley prefer contracts for the full term, and it is probable that the gradual disappearance of contracts for shorter terms is due to the increased attention which is now paid by them to the details of recruiting operations. Formerly, the planter took little or no interest in the matter prior to the coolies' arrival on the garden. Another explanation which may reasonably be put forward of the decrease in the proportion of contracts executed for less than the full legal term is that the proportion of unlicensed contractors' coolies to the total number of coolies who are put under contract at Dhubri is very much greater than it used to be. Such coolies, as a class, are of very inferior physique compared with sardári coolies, and the planter consequently finds it necessary to take an agreement for a longer term in order to recoup himself for the cost of importing them.

Verification of contracts.

26. The following table shows the extent to which local contracts executed direct between employer and labourer were verified by the Magistrate or Inspector during 1895:

District.	Number of contracts under section 111.			Number verified.	Number not capable of verification on account of					Percentage of contracts verified.	
	Remaining unverified at close of previous year.	Executed during the year.	Total.		Expiry of contracts.	Death or desertion of labourer.	Sickness of the labourer.	Other causes.	Total.	(a) On total number of contracts.	(b) On contracts capable of verification.
Cachar ...	180	350	530	369	14	45	...	102	161	69·6	100·0
Sylhet ...	971	3,433	4,404	3,157	293	94	34	824	1,245*	71·6	100·0
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	1,226	4,013	5,239	4,287	81	7	11	853	952	81·8	100·0
Nowgong ...	45	524	569	499	...	4	3	63	70	87·7	100·0
Sibságar ...	487	3,176	3,663	2,584	244	72	21	742	1,079	70·5	100·0
Lakhimpur ...	759	3,389	4,148	2,945	484	9	11	699	1,203	70·9	100·0
Total ...	3,668	14,885	18,553	13,841	1,116	231	80	3,283	4,710	74·6	100·0

* Besides these, two contracts were not verified through mistake.

These results, if correct, are very satisfactory, but the figures for all districts under the column "Not capable of verification on account of 'other causes'" are very large. The Deputy Commissioners explain that these figures include chiefly contracts of coolies absent recruiting and contracts executed after the gardens have been inspected; but the Chief Commissioner cannot help thinking that they also include some entries of contracts which, though not verified, were capable of verification; it is scarcely possible that every contract which was capable of verification was actually verified during the year. In future reports, Deputy Commissioners will be required to examine very carefully the details given of the main items contributing to the total under this head. Even allowing, however, for some slight inaccuracy, the results are satisfactory, and show that special attention has been devoted in all districts to this important subject. From the statement given in the following paragraph it will be seen that in the whole province not a single contract was cancelled under section 111A during the year, and that only two were cancelled under section 111B. It is very rarely that a coolie denies the execution of a contract at the time of verification, but when this is the case, it is believed to be the usual practice to cancel the contracts without any detailed enquiry.

With reference to the explanation alluded to above as one of the reasons why so many contracts were shown as not capable of verification on account of "other causes," *viz.*, that they were executed after the date on which the garden was inspected, the Chief Commissioner would impress on inspecting officers the desirability of arranging to pay special visits, towards the close of the year, to those gardens on which the register of contracts executed under section 111 shows that there is any considerable number of contracts still remaining unverified. As remarked by the Government of India in paragraph 9 of their Resolution on the Report for 1893, the subject of verification has lost some of its importance in view of the maximum term of contracts under section 111 having been limited to one year; but the matter is nevertheless one to which the Chief Commissioner desires special attention to be given by district officers. This point will be referred to again later on in this report.

27. The following table shows the number of contracts which expired by lapse of time, the number of such expiries reported by managers, and the number of contracts which were cancelled or determined during the year under the different sections of the Act:

Expiry and cancelment of contracts.

District.	Number shown in garden return as time expired.	Number of time-expired contracts reported under section 141.	Number cancelled under section 11A.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111A.	Number cancelled by Inspector under section 111B.	Number suspended by Inspector for temporary unfitness, section 120.	Number cancelled by Inspector for permanent incapacity, section 122.	Number made void by committee by reason of unfitness of estate, section 123.	Number cancelled by Magistrate under section 140.	Number cancelled by Magistrate under section 140A.	Number redeemed under section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.
Cachar ...	2,234	2,224	2	...	...	...	28	...	...	...	1	19
Sylhet ...	5,078	5,067	...	...	...	...	373	...	...	...	...	374
Kámrúp ...	79	73	...	...	...	...	4	78	...	...	...	6
Darrang ...	6,841	6,841	4	...	...	...	169	...	...	...	...	67
Nowgong ...	724	724	...	...	2	...	130	...	...	...	...	20
Sibságar ...	10,198	11,081*	8	...	...	...	264	164	...	...	2	883
Lakhimpur ...	8,618	8,513	4	...	...	...	309	...	...	...	5	209
Total of 1895...	33,772	34,523	18	...	2	...	1,277	242	...	...	8	1,578
„ „ *1894...*	*35,699*	*36,027*	14	50	...	...	*1,023*	...	...	*6*	*6*	*1,052*

* This includes 883 contracts which were dissolved by mutual consent.

Section 141.—*Notice of determination of contracts.*—The results under this head are very satisfactory, and the number of expiries unreported was not large in any district. It was largest in Lakhimpur, where, however, only 105 out of a total of 8,618 were not reported. There is no desire on the part of employers to intentionally evade their liabilities under this section, and failure to report, where it occurs, is usually due to ignorance of the obligation to do so, or to unintentional oversight. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, reports that in his district managers are now required to state, in the column of remarks of the monthly list of expiries of contracts (Form No. 54), whether the fact of the determination of the contract has been noted on the labourer's copy of the contract, or, in default, a certificate has been granted, as provided by section 141. The provisions of section 141 have not hitherto been observed as carefully as they should be, and the special attention of inspecting officers has recently been drawn to that section; the practice introduced by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, is likely to prove useful in preventing the matter from being lost sight of, and it might with advantage be adopted in other districts.

Section 11A.—Cancelment of contracts for irregularities in recruitment.—The whole subject of malpractices in connection with the recruitment of coolies has been dealt with in paragraphs 15 and 16 above. Eighteen contracts were cancelled on this ground during the year under report against 14 in 1894. District Officers are now acting freely on the principle which has been laid down as guiding the policy of this Administration in dealing with cases of this nature, *viz.*, that in any case in which there is reasonable suspicion of fraud or other substantial irregularity in recruitment, the case should be reported with a view to the Chief Commissioner's sanction being obtained to the cancelment of the contract, whether the fraud or irregularity can be legally proved or not. The principle has received still further recognition since the close of the year, and the report for 1896 will show a considerable increase over the figures for 1895 in the number of contracts cancelled on account of irregularities in recruitment; no less than 39 contracts have been cancelled on this ground during the first seven months of the current year. It may be mentioned here that a case in which a coolie who had been ordered to be repatriated under this section was reported not to have reached her home having come to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, a circular has recently been issued, drawing the attention of district officers to the provisions of section 11D of the Act and directing that escorts should be provided at the cost of the employer in all cases in which, from the ignorance of the labourer or other causes, it appears likely that a labourer whose repatriation has been

ordered will be unable to reach his home unassisted. It was pointed out that this precaution is especially necessary in cases where solitary women are concerned.

Sections 111A and 111B.—Cancelment of local contracts.—There were only two cancelments under these sections, which must be considered a very satisfactory result when it is remembered that over thirteen thousand local contracts were verified during the year.

Section 122.—Cancelment of contracts for permanent incapacity.—The following table shows the number of contracts cancelled during 1894 and 1895, owing to the labourers becoming permanently incapacitated from carrying them out:

District.	Contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122 of the Act.	
	1894.	1895.
Cachar	110	28
Sylhet	75	373
Kámrúp	10	4
Darrang	129	169
Nowgong	82	130
Sibságar	160	264
Lakhimpur	457	309
Total	1,023	1,277

It would be useful to know what proportion of the contracts cancelled under this section related to newly imported coolies. The Chief Commissioner is enforcing strictly the responsibility of employers for the class of labourers they import, and the figures reported under this head should, in future, be given in greater detail so as to show to what extent employers avail themselves of the provisions of this section, which gives them an opportunity of repatriating any unfit labourers who may have been imported by accident or mistake. It would also be instructive to know the agency by which such labourers were imported, *i.e.*, whether by contractors or sardárs, and how many of them were actually repatriated. Deputy Commissioners will be asked to furnish information on these points in future reports.

Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.—The number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent has been as follows in each of the last two years:

District.	Contracts dissolved by mutual consent.	
	1894.	1895.
Cachar	32	19
Sylhet	11	374
Kámrúp	10	6
Darrang	44	67
Nowgong	4	20
Sibságar	902	883
Lakhimpur	49	209
Total	1,052	1,578

In 1893, the total number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent was only 664, or barely two-fifths of the number now reported.

The greatest increase in the number of dissolutions by mutual consent occurred in the Sylhet district, where 374 contracts were thus terminated, against only 11 in 1894 and none at all in 1893. The Deputy Commissioner says—

> The number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent has largely increased during the year, owing chiefly to certain gardens in the South Sylhet subdivision having imported unfit North-Western coolies, who should never have been registered.
>
> The figures for Karimganj refer, among others, to Baitakhal garden, the manager of which cancelled the contracts of certain Act labourers sent to him, as he preferred his garden to be entirely a non-Act one.

The number of contracts dissolved by mutual consent in the Sibságar district continued to be large. The Deputy Commissioner reports that 11 of the labourers concerned were repatriated at the expense of the employers, there having been irregularity in their recruitment; the remaining 872 contracts were cancelled with a view to renewal. It is

a common practice in this district, at the expiry of the first three years of a contract for four years, to cancel the original agreement and substitute a fresh contract under section 111 or section 112 for the remaining term of the original period ; this is done to secure uniformity in the rates of remuneration paid to Act labourers and to simplify accounts, the extra rupee per month which the coolies would receive for the fourth year of the contract being given in a lump sum as a bonus to the labourer : if the fresh contract is for a longer period than the unexpired portion of the original contract, the bonus is proportionately increased. The Chief Commissioner has no objection to this procedure, which appears to be equally popular with employers and employed ; the labourer, at the end of his third year, has become acclimatised and has settled down to the conditions of life in Assam, and, as explained in paragraph 23 above, a lump sum of ready money enables him to purchase cattle and other live stock, which add very considerably to his means of livelihood and to his bodily comfort.

Section 142.—*Redemption of contracts.*—Only 8 contracts were redeemed during the year, against 6 in 1894. The remarks made on this subject in last year's report may be quoted here :

> It is very satisfactory that only six contracts were redeemed during the year. Considering that many thousands of contracts can be redeemed for the payment of a few rupees, it is a satisfactory test of the good relations between employers and labourers that the number of contracts redeemed each year by labourers is so small.

Extent to which section 170 and 2nd paragraph of section 121 are made use of.

28. The district reports show that, as in previous years, practically no advantage is taken by employers of the provisions of sections 121 and 170 of the Act, by which they are entitled to get periods of absence from work, owing to sickness or other causes, added to the original term of a labourer's contract.

Repatriation of labourers.

29. The following table gives certain particulars regarding the repatriation, during the past two years of labourers whose contracts were dissolved under section 122 :

District.	Number of contracts cancelled for permanent incapacity under section 122.		Number of coolies repatriated.		Number of coolies who will be repatriated when a sardár is available to accompany them.		Number of coolies who preferred to remain on the garden or in the district.		Number of coolies who died.		Number of coolies who absconded.		Number of coolies sent to the lunatic asylum.		Amount paid by Government over and above the three months' wages paid by employers.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
															Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	110	28	44	16	..	..	66	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	75	373	45	349	..	..	28	15	1	7	1	2	..	..	..	..
Kámrúp	10	4	2	..	..	..	8	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Darrang	129	169	90	168	..	..	27	..	7	1	5	..	..	..	..	..
Nowgong	82	130	38	74	..	2	10	13	17	37	17	4	..	..	10 0 0	..
Sibságar	160	264	108	153	..	..	51	106	..	2	1	1	..	2	260 8 6	350 10 3
Lakhimpur	457	309	339	214	..	..	112	93	4	1	2	1	..	..	..	..
Total	1,023	1,277	666	974	..	2	302	242	29	48	26	8	..	3	270 8 6	350 10 3

This statement has been prepared in its present form for some years past, but it seems to require alteration to suit present conditions, as the law on the subject of the repatriation of immigrants was considerably modified by Act VII of 1893.* Figures are at present given only for labourers whose contracts have been cancelled under section 122, and who have been repatriated under section 142B. Under the law in force before Act VII of 1893 was passed, only those labourers whose contracts were cancelled under section 122 could be repatriated, and the cost could be recovered from employers only up to a maximum of three months' wages. The excess expenditure over this maximum was borne

* These modifications were explained in paragraph 1 of the report for 1893.

by Government. Under the law as it now stands, the entire expense of repatriating such labourers is borne by the employers, whether the cost exceeds three months' wages or not, and the column showing "the amount paid by Government over and above the three months' wages paid by employers" is therefore unnecessary. Sibságar is the only district showing any expenditure under this head. In a foot note, however, to the statement, the Deputy Commissioner notes "This amount was paid from 'the fund' for the repatriation of free labourers and children." By "the fund" is presumably meant the Inland Labour Transport Fund, but it is not quite clear whether the persons so repatriated were adults and children dependent on labourers whose contracts were cancelled under section 122, or whether they were persons falling within one of the other classes, whose repatriation at the cost of the Inland Labour Transport Fund has been provided for in the new sections 142C, 142D, and 142E. In either case, the expenditure should not have been entered in this statement, which, in its present form, relates only to labourers whose contracts have been cancelled under section 122. It is at the same time desirable that some account should be given of the action which is being taken under the extended powers of repatriation given by Act VII of 1893, and the form of the statement will be modified accordingly in future reports. It should be remembered that no part of the cost of repatriating immigrants now falls on Government, Act VII of 1893 having, as stated above, legalised the debiting of such expenditure to the Inland Labour Transport Fund.

Wages.

30. The following table gives some idea of the actual amount of wages drawn from the tea gardens by Act and non-Act labourers, distinguishing the sexes, and by children. The figures are based on the enquiries made by officers when inspecting gardens. In each case, the inspecting officer is required to ascertain the wages paid during the month preceding that in which the inspection is held; and the average results of these enquiries may be taken as giving a fair idea of the actual money payments in the way of wages. The table which follows shows the average wages for the whole year, as thus ascertained, in each subdivision of the labour districts:

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar, Sadr	Act	Men	4 8 6
		Women	3 4 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 0 0
		Women	4 8 0
		Children	2 12 6
Hailákándi	Act	Men	3 13 1
		Women	3 6 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 3 9
		Women	3 0 4
		Children	1 15 1
North Sylhet	Act	Men	4 1 3
		Women	3 2 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 1
		Women	3 5 3
		Children	2 1 6
South Sylhet	Act	Men	4 6 2
		Women	3 7 11
	Non-Act	Men	6 3 0
		Women	3 9 0
		Children	2 8 4
Karimganj	Act	Men	5 3 0
		Women	3 7 4
	Non-Act	Men	4 8 3
		Women	3 2 3
		Children	2 4 5
Habiganj	Act	Men	4 9 4
		Women	3 11 7
	Non-Act	Men	4 15 4
		Women	3 15 10
		Children	2 0 9
Kámrúp	Act	Men	4 9 2
		Women	3 12 11
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 9
		Women	3 12 6
		Children	2 8 3

			Monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Darrang Sadr	Act	Men	5 1 11
		Women	4 9 0
	Non Act	Men	5 3 0
		Women	4 2 0
		Children	3 8 10
Mangaldai	Act	Men	5 13 0
		Women	4 9 8
	Non-Act	Men	5 3 0
		Women	4 13 0
		Children	2 11 0
Nowgong	Act	Men	5 1 6
		Women	4 2 9
	Non-Act	Men	5 5 0
		Women	4 11 9
		Children	2 11 3
Sibságar	Act	Men	4 15 0
		Women	3 10 7
	Non-Act	Men	6 0 3
		Women	3 13 3
		Children	2 9 7
Jorhát	Act	Men	4 14 2
		Women	3 13 0
	Non-Act	Men	5 1 0
		Women	3 8 2
		Children	2 11 2
Golághát	Act	Men	4 0 6
		Women	3 2 1
	Non-Act	Men	5 2 11
		Women	3 5 0
		Children	2 1 10
Lakhimpur Sadr	Act	Men	5 5 1
		Women	4 6 2
	Non-Act	Men	6 4 0
		Women	4 14 0
		Children	2 14 0
North Lakhimpur	Act	Men	5 2 6
		Women	3 11 5
	Non-Act	Men	6 0 0
		Women	4 0 7
		Children	2 0 4

The table below shows separately the average wages paid to coolies during the manufacturing and non-manufacturing season, respectively. The wages in the manufacturing season are, as a general rule, higher, as more *ticca* or extra work is done then :

			Non-manufacturing or cold-season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy-season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
Cachar Sadr	Act	Men	3 12 0	4 12 0
		Women	3 8 6	3 5 6
	Non-Act	Men	4 8 0	4 4 0
		Women	3 8 0	4 0 0
		Children	2 4 0	2 8 0
Hailákándi	Act	Men	3 12 0	4 8 0
		Women	3 7 5	3 10 5
	Non-Act	Men	3 2 9	4 13 0
		Women	2 14 5	3 2 9
		Children	2 0 10	2 4 10
North Sylhet	Act	Men	3 15 10	4 3 9
		Women	3 0 0	3 2 0
	Non-Act	Men	4 12 0	4 15 9
		Women	3 4 2	3 10 6
		Children	2 0 11	2 3 4

				Non-manufacturing or cold season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.	Manufacturing or rainy season monthly wages. Average. Rs. a. p.
South Sylhet	Act	Men		4 2 7	4 7 7
		Women		3 7 5	3 8 1
	Non-Act	Men		4 7 9	4 10 11
		Women		3 3 4	3 9 7
		Children		2 0 3	1 14 11
Karimganj	Act	Men		4 13 2	4 7 2
		Women		3 4 9	2 14 4
	Non-Act	Men		4 7 5	4 9 3
		Women		3 2 1	3 2 4
		Children		2 8 6	1 15 3
Habiganj	Act	Men		4 2 3	4 13 11
		Women		3 11 4	4 0 10
	Non-Act	Men		4 8 5	5 1 0
		Women		4 3 4	4 11 11
		Children		2 5 2	2 5 9
Kámrúp	Act	Men		4 0 3	4 14 6
		Women		3 5 11	4 0 5
	Non-Act	Men		4 1 0	5 4 10
		Women		3 1 2	4 4 4
		Children		2 3 6	2 10 8
Darrang Sadr	Act	Men		4 13 0	4 15 11
		Women		3 15 0	4 5 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 4 3	6 0 0
		Women		4 3 0	5 4 1
		Children		2 12 0	3 8 10
Mangaldai	Act	Men		4 15 9	6 11 11
		Women		3 11 5	4 6 3
	Non-Act	Men		5 5 6	5 14 2
		Women		3 3 3	3 14 6
		Children		2 7 0	2 9 3
Nowgong	Act	Men		4 12 6	5 6 6
		Women		3 9 6	4 12 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 3 3	5 6 9
		Women		4 4 9	5 2 9
		Children		2 4 6	3 2 0
Sibságar Sadr	Act	Men		4 10 11	5 3 1
		Women		3 9 1	3 12 1
	Non-Act	Men		5 9 10	6 6 8
		Women		3 10 1	4 0 6
		Children		2 11 0	2 8 3
Jorhát	Act	Men		4 11 8	5 0 9
		Women		3 9 1	4 1 0
	Non-Act	Men		4 11 5	5 6 5
		Women		3 7 0	3 9 5
		Children		2 5 7	3 0 9
Golághát	Act	Men		4 0 4	4 15 9
		Women		3 14 8	3 5 7
	Non-Act	Men		4 14 0	5 7 11
		Women		3 3 11	3 6 2
		Children		2 1 8	2 2 0
Lakhimpur Sadr	Act	Men		5 6 5	5 8 9
		Women		4 1 4	4 11 0
	Non-Act	Men		5 7 4	7 0 9
		Women		4 7 3	5 4 9
		Children		2 11 10	2 15 2
North Lakhimpur	Act	Men		4 13 0	5 8 0
		Women		3 4 7	4 2 3
	Non-Act	Men		6 5 6	5 9 6
		Women		4 7 7	3 9 7
		Children		1 11 11	2 4 10

The following remarks, which were made with reference to the corresponding statement in the Annual Report for 1893, apply equally to the above statement:

The wages shown above do not of course represent the total expenditure incurred by employers on behalf of their labour force; they are exclusive of house accommodation, water-supply, and sanitary arrangements, medical treatment and diet or subsistence allowance in cases of sickness, and food at certain contract rates, etc. The coolies have also, to a large extent, various collateral sources

of livelihood, such as the cultivation of paddy and other crops, the rearing of livestock and poultry, the hiring out of cattle and sometimes of carts, and petty trading of kinds, which they are, as a rule, permitted to engage in when their full time is not required for garden work. The *average* rate of wages (which is obtained by dividing the total sum paid as wages by the total number of labourers shown as working during the month in the attendance register) is moreover reduced by voluntary absences of coolies from garden work for these other pursuits, and in many cases by a certain proportion of the labourers having worked casually, or only for a few days, during the month. The inclusion of the latter in the calculation reduces the average monthly wages per head.

As in 1893, the statement shows that, on the whole, Act labourers earn somewhat less than non-Act labourers, the reason being that the former contain amongst their number a larger proportion of new importations, who are unaccustomed to the work, and, being unacclimatised, are more liable to sickness than the old hands, who form the greater part of the non-Act labour force.

Wages and other earnings of labourers.

31. The questions (*a*) of the food supply and prices of food grains and other necessaries equired by coolies, and (*b*) of the extent to which collateral means of livelihood, other than garden work, are available to, or followed by, coolies, were exhaustively treated of in paragraph 31 of the Annual Report for 1894. The remarks there made still hold good, and very little new information on the subject is given in the district reports for 1895.

The following extracts from these reports may, however, be given :

Cachar.—There is nothing new for me to add to what was stated in paragraph 31 of the Annual Report for the year 1894. I subjoin notes of a few collateral means of livelihood followed by coolies, that I have come across in my inspection of gardens of the sadr subdivision :

(1) Cultivation of sugarcane and paddy.

(2) Keeping of bullocks and bullock carts. These bullocks are largely used for the conveyance of Government telegraph stores and rations, etc. They are also used for the same purposes by the Assam-Bengal Railway contractors of this district.

(3) Selling of milk.

(4) Making of leaf-baskets.

The price of food-grains was moderately low throughout the year, the price of rice per maund being between Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3 during the year.

Sylhet.—The earnings of the labourers are satisfactory. Besides the wage, they have several other sources of income as detailed in last year's report.

The Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, remarks as follows : "The average of wages is fairly good, especially when there is taken into account the enormous number of new coolies who could not possibly do a full task. In a large number of gardens the *hazira* was raised from three to four annas for a man and correspondingly for a woman. And coolies have other means of subsistence. They nearly all keep cows, and on several gardens their bullocks, buffaloes, or ponies are hired by the garden for carrying leaf to the factory, or tea to the shipping ghât. Almost every coolie's house has a garden attached, and on one or two estates the labourers are encouraged to clear and plant rice on portions of the garden lands. Throughout the year rice was plentiful and cheap. In no single instance had coolies to be supplied at the statutory rate of three rupees a maund."

The Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, thus remarks : "The wages of the coolies in this subdivision are fairly satisfactory, and I believe that they can save money enough to send to their homes. Their income is further multiplied by several other works which they undertake during their leisure from garden work. The price of food-grains during the year has been moderate."

The Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, states that the coolies in his subdivision obtain their food-supply from the garden bazars. Rice was plentiful and cheap, never over Rs. 3 during the year. A large number of coolies supplement their income by growing paddy, some by selling milk, and some by keeping buffaloes and carts working for the garden in which they live.

Kamrup.—The price of rice was comparatively low throughout the whole year, and the coolies reaped the advantage thereof. The price of common rice was from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per maund. The coolies, as reported last year, have various means of subsistence besides garden work. Some of them have small gardens attached to their houses where they grow vegetables for their own use as well as for sale. The greater part of the coolies own cows and make a fair profit by selling milk. Those who are better off own carts, which they let out for hire ; they also lend money at interest. Most of the non-Act labourers are cultivators, and cultivate rice land either within or adjacent to the tea estate on which they are employed.

Darrang.—In both the subdivisions most of the old coolies grow their own paddy or purchase paddy from the villagers, and thus get their rice at a comparatively cheap rate. In some gardens new or sick coolies who could not procure their food-supplies at cheap rates locally applied to their managers for rice at the contract rate, and they invariably obtained this. Managers are always prepared to supply rice at the contract rate, but there are cases of gardens where their stock of imported rice is never indented on, and I know of one case where a manager had no less than 500 maunds of imported rice lying on his hands, for which there was absolutely no demand. Almost all the old coolies have their own vegetable gardens. Many old coolies keep bullocks and sometimes also bullock-carts. Besides these, they have other means of livelihood, such as selling milk and rearing pigs, goats, and poultry.

Nowgong.—The old Act and non-Act coolies have various collateral sources of livelihood apart from wages. They cultivate paddy and other crops, sell milk from their cows, and vegetables which they cultivate. The coolies purchase rice and other food-grains from the *hats* or local markets, where rice is available at 4 to 5 annas per *don*, a measure of 5 seers, *matikalai*, potatoes, from 4 to 5 pice per seer. In the rains, when the price of food-grains is high, the coolies get their rice from the garden at the contract rate.

Sibságar.—Prices ruled high during the year, and most gardens were under the necessity of importing rice for their coolies. Tea garden coolies continue to eke out their wages by cultivation on their own account, by rearing pigs, goats, and poultry for sale, and by keeping cows.

CHAPTER IV.

OFFENCES, INCLUDING DESERTIONS.

Offences committed by tea-garden population under Act I of 1882 and Act XIII of 1859.

32. The following table shows the offences which were committed by the tea-garden population, and for which convictions were obtained, for the past two years, (1) under Act XIII of 1859, and (2) under Act I of 1882, excluding the offence of desertion, which is separately dealt with in paragraph 35 below :

District.	Act XIII of 1859.		Act I of 1882.																											
	Section 151, garden sardár failing to report himself.		Section 153, garden sardár failing to comply with instructions endorsed on way-bills.		Section 162, labourer deserting, &c., after registration.		Section 163, employers refusing or omitting to keep registers, &c.		Section 164, employers or other persons obstructing inspection under section 114.		Section 168, employers neglecting to provide hospital accommodation.		Section 171, labourers absent without cause.		Section 172, not taking deserters to police station.		Section 176, employers arresting labourer without sufficient cause.		Section 178, labourer guilty of habitual drunkenness or wilful disregard of sanitary regulations.		Section 183, enticing away, harbouring or employing labourer under contract.		Section 185, employer refusing to endorse labour contract, &c.		Total.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar ...	66	33	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	6	2		
Sylhet ...	42	52	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	7	3		
Kámrúp ...	...	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...		
Darrang ...	11	6	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	13	...	...	24	35		
Nowgong ...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	4	7		
Sibságar ...	68	71	15	35	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	20	12	1	...	...	...	1	3	19	23	...	...	57	76		
Lakhimpur ...	27	24	16	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	...	...	56	25		
Total	214	198	39	56	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	64	38	1	...	...	...	1	3	49	46	...	...	155	148		

The convictions under Act XIII of 1859 were slightly fewer than in 1894, owing to a decrease in the Cachár district, where the Deputy Commissioner says that cases of garden coolies under contracts under that Act deserting for work on the Assam-Bengal Railway were fewer than in the previous year. Convictions for offences under Act I of 1882 also showed a slight decrease. Of the total number of convictions under this Act, all but eight were under section 151 (garden sardárs failing to report), section 171 (labourers absent without cause), and section 183 (enticing away, harbouring, or employing labourer under contract). The number of convictions under the last named section was much the same as in 1894. Sibságar was chiefly responsible for the increase in the number of convictions under section 151. No explanation of the increase is given by the Deputy Commissioner, but the Chief Commissioner understands that in these cases managers very rarely press for the punishment of the sardár failing to report himself. The employer's object is to get the sardár back, and he usually asks that the accused may be merely warned and sent back to the garden. The large decrease in the number of convictions under section 171, which relates to unlawful absence from labour, from 64 to 38, was common to all districts in which such convictions occurred, and is highly satisfactory.

33. The following table shows the punishments inflicted for offences under Act XIII of 1859 during each of the past two years:

Punishments under Act XIII of 1859.

District.	Number of coolies convicted.		Number of coolies who were ordered to perform their contracts.		Number punished with imprisonment for								Cases withdrawn.		Number of coolies ordered to pay their advances or pay compensation.	
					One week.		Eleven days.		Two weeks.		Twenty days.		One month or more.			
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar ...	66	33	42	32	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	4	15	2	...
Sylhet ...	42	52	38	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	2	4	...	...
Kámrúp ...	...	11	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	11	6	11	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Sibságar ...	68	71	54	67	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	6	12	1
Lakhimpur ...	27	24	27	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	214	198	172	190	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	2	13	4	8	25	14	1

Thus, of 198 persons convicted, only 7 were sentenced to imprisonment: one person was ordered to repay his advance, and the rest were ordered to complete their contracts. Considering the enormous number of labourers under contracts of this description, cases in which they are imprisoned for non-completion of their contracts are extremely rare.

34. The following table shows the number and description of offences against the Penal Code and other laws (excluding Act I of 1882 and Act XIII of 1859) committed by tea-garden coolies during the last two years :

Offences committed by the tea-garden population against the general criminal law.

| District. | Penal Code. | | |

Penal Code—*continued.*

District.	Wrongful confinement.	Contempt of lawful authority.	Escaping from lawful custody.	False charge of offence with intent to injure.	False prosecution.	Defamation (section 500).	Negligent act likely to spread infection.	Causing death by rash act.	Enticing away a married woman.	Not obeying a legal order to attend to a certain place in person.	Rape.	Resistance to lawful apprehension.	Exposure of infants.	Breach of contract.	Obstructing tax-collector.	Criminal force to public servant.	Misconduct in public by drunken person.	Delivery of coins not genuine.	Attempting to commit offence.	False information.	Assisting in concealment of stolen property.	Sale of noxious food or drink.	Defiling water (section 277).	Total.	Act V of 1861.	Offences under other Acts.	Grand total of all offences.
Cachar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	2	...	37
Sylhet ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	40	1	14	55
Kámrúp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Darrang ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	8	1	50
Nowgong ...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	1	20
Sibságar ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	160	10	44	214
Lakhimpur ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	152	11	49	212
Total of 1895 ...	2	2	7	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	3	1	3	448	32	109	589
,, 1894 ...	6	...	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	3	...	...	518	17	128	663

The statement discloses a very satisfactory diminution in crime amongst the labouring population. The total number of offences committed in 1895 was lower than in any year since 1890, notwithstanding the vast increase in the tea-garden population which has taken place since that date. Crime amongst coolies generally occurs under three main classes :—Rioting and unlawful assembly, offences against the body (including murder, hurt, and assaults), and offences against property (including theft, receiving stolen property, and criminal trespass). Under the first and last classes, the falling off in 1895 was very marked, but offences against the body were more numerous than in 1894, especially under the heads of "Hurt" and "Grievous hurt." There were also four murders and three cases of culpable homicide, against only 1 and *nil*, respectively, in 1894. Ninety-three out of 109 convictions under "Other Acts" occurred in the Sibságar and Lakhimpur districts ; most of these were for offences against the excise laws. The number of convictions of tea-garden coolies in 1895 represents a percentage of ·11 of the total tea-garden population ; the percentage of convictions among the total population of the province was ·28. This result is partly attributable to the practice, common among the coolies on most gardens, of referring petty offences to the manager for decision, instead of having recourse to the Courts. On a well managed garden, cases between the coolies themselves rarely come before the Courts: it is, as a rule, only cases of undetected thefts, or cases between managers and coolies, or between coolies and villagers, which are referred to the Courts for decision. The figures, as already stated, exclude convictions under Act I of 1882 and Act XIII of 1859, which are dealt with in paragraphs 32, 33, and 35. Including convictions under these Acts, the percentage of offences among the tea-garden population was ·31.

The following table, which includes all convictions of tea-garden coolies, whether under the general law or Act I of 1882, including convictions for desertion, or Act XIII of 1859, compares the proportion of convictions and of sentences of imprisonment to the adult tea-garden population during each of the last two years :

District.	Mean adult garden population.		Number convicted of any offence.		Number sent to prison (Jail Report).		Ratio per cent. of imprisonment to convictions.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar	66,641	68,436	165	133	104	92	63	69
Sylhet	61,456	71,201	195	168	109	93	55	55
Kámrúp	2,250	2,400	5	26	5	13	100	50
Darrang	37,068	40,244	180	173	132	135	73	78
Nowgong	11,102	12,114	79	71	72	68	91	95
Sibságar	69,116	73,210	638	579	469	330	73	56
Lakhimpur	63,130	66,689	523	526	336	377	64	71
Total	310,767	334,298	1,785	1,676	1,227	1,108	68	66

In this connection, it may be mentioned that the option conferred on Magistrates by Act VII of 1893 of inflicting a fine in lieu of imprisonment in the case of convictions for desertion is very rarely exercised. The explanation is, that the vast majority of the labourers who are convicted of desertion are new importations, who are usually penniless. It is useless in such cases to impose sentences of fine.

Provincial and district figures for desertion.

35. The following table shows the number of desertions reported among the adult tea-garden population, district by district, for the past two years :

District.	Total desertions among adults.		Act.		Non-Act.		Percentage of desertions on strength among					
							Act.		Non-Act.		Total adult population.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar	4,128	4,738	1,023	734	3,105	4,004	14·21	10·69	5·21	6·48	6·19	6·91
Sylhet	5,453	6,056	980	1,233	4,473	4,823	10·73	10·99	8·56	8·08	8·88	8·54
Kámrúp	186	223	52	67	134	156	6·98	10·86	8·95	8·75	8·25	9·23
Darrang	1,462	1,759	877	972	585	787	3·80	4·02	4·22	4·88	3·95	4·37
Nowgong	510	498	281	271	229	227	7·20	5·72	3·17	3·10	4·59	4·12
Sibságar	2,230	2,028	1,225	1,128	1,005	900	3·27	3·04	3·17	2·49	3·22	2·77
Lakhimpur	2,136	2,084	1,195	1,130	941	954	3·25	3·04	3·53	3·21	3·38	3·12
Total	16,105	17,386	5,633	5,535	10,472	11,951	4·76	4·55	5·44	5·58	5·18	5·21

In view of the unusually large number of importations during the year, these figures are not altogether unsatisfactory. The increase in the percentage of desertions to total strength is only ·03, and as desertions take place almost exclusively amongst new coolies, the figures tend to show that desertions among new importations were proportionately fewer than usual. It will be noticed, moreover, that, in spite of increased importations of Act labourers, Act desertions were fewer than in 1894; the small increase which occurred took place among Non-Act coolies, and in this connection, it must be borne in mind, as stated in last year's report, that the desertions reported among the non-Act population include many cases in which coolies not under any form of contract have simply left the garden without permission.

Arrests and convictions of deserters under Act contracts.

36. The following table shows for each district—(1) the number of desertions of labourers under contracts under Act I of 1882; (2) the number of warrants issued for the arrest of such deserters; (3) the number of such deserters arrested; and (4) the number convicted of the offence of desertion (section 175, Act I of 1882):

District.	Number deserted (Act labourers).	Number of warrants issued.	Number arrested.					Number convicted.
			By warrant.	By manager.	By police.	By summons.	Total.	
Cachar	734	37	8	58	...	...	66	61
Sylhet	1,233	151	29	32	5	8	74	58
Kámrúp	67	30	13	3	...	...	16	14
Darrang	972	142	50	30	...	2	82	82
Nowgong	271	33	7	28	8	...	43	43
Sibságar	1,128	100	37	189	9	1	236	218
Lakhimpur	1,130	219	119	183	...	...	302	265
Total of 1895	5,535	712	263	523	22	11	819	741
„ „ *1894*	*5,633*	*713*	*253*	*622*	*11*	*11*	*897*	*753*

The Provincial totals for the two years are much the same, except that the proportion of deserters arrested to total deserters has fallen from about one-sixth to about one-seventh. The district figures, however, show that the number of warrants issued in the Surma Valley fell from 319 in 1894 to 188, while in the Assam Valley the figures were 394 in 1894 and 524 in 1895. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, says the falling off in his district was due to the difficulty experienced by managers in getting the warrants executed. No satisfactory explanation of the increase in the Assam Valley districts is forthcoming. A complaint was received during the year from certain planters in Sylhet, that the number of desertions from gardens in that district had unduly increased during the past two years; they attributed the increase to a variety of causes, the chief of which were said to be (*a*) the demand for labour, and high remuneration given, by the contractors working on the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway, and (*b*) the difficulty experienced in executing warrants obtained against deserters and the consequent temptation which this immunity from arrest offered to coolies. On enquiry, it was found that the number of desertions in the Surma Valley had increased during the last three years at a rate out of all proportion to the increase in the total number of persons under contract, and that this was largely attributable to the demand for labour in connection with the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. This, however, is to a certain extent unavoidable, and the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the railway authorities have done all in their power to interfere as little as possible with the garden labour force. As regards the serving of warrants on deserters, the Chief Commissioner has issued orders to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, which it is hoped will lead to an improvement in the proportion of arrests to warrants executed.

Proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens respectively.

37. The following table shows the proportion of desertions to labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens separately :

District.		Mean strength.		Number of desertions.		Percentage of desertions to labour force.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.
Cachar ...	*Healthy gardens* ...	*93,689*	*95,256*	*1,988*	*2,233*	*2·12*	*2·34*	*4·46*
	Unhealthy „ ...	15,810	16,648	336	541	2·12	3·24	5·36
Sylhet ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*103,587*	*111,755*	*4,054*	*3,609*	*3·91*	*3·22*	*7·13*
	Unhealthy „ ...	9,617	10,367	370	358	3·84	3·45	7·29
Kámrúp ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*2,783*	*2,926*	*105*	*127*	*3·77*	*4·34*	*8·11*
	Unhealthy „ ...	676	661	4	36	·59	5·44	6·03
Darrang ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*51,363*	*54,337*	*709*	*800*	*1·38*	*1·47*	*2·85*
	Unhealthy „ ...	5,875	5,462	274	220	4·66	4·02	8·68
Nowgong ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*14,505*	*15,037*	*265*	*202*	*1·82*	*1·34*	*3·16*
	Unhealthy „ ...	3,234	3,228	99	64	3·06	1·98	5·04
Sibságar ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*112,565*	*115,819*	*1,171*	*1,041*	*1·04*	*0·89*	*1·93*
	Unhealthy „ ...	5,098	5,153	125	74	2·45	1·43	3·88
Lakhimpur ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*89,074*	*91,436*	*1,074*	*1,069*	*1·20*	*1·16*	*2·36*
	Unhealthy „ ...	8,121	9,527	188	254	2·31	2·66	4·97
Total of 1895 ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*467,566*	*486,616*	*9,366*	*9,081*	*2·00*	*1·86*	*3·86*
	Unhealthy „ ...	48,431	51,046	1,396	1,547	2·88	3·03	5·91
„ 1894 ...	*Healthy „ ...*	*432,664*	*439,084*	*8,524*	*7,200*	*1·97*	*1·64*	*3·61*
	Unhealthy „ ...	57,742	59,176	1,957	2,129	3·39	3·59	6·98
Grand total of 1895		516,001	537,665	10,762	10,628	2·08	1·97	4·05
„ „ *1894*		*490,410*	*498,262*	*10,481*	*9,329*	*2·14*	*1·87*	*4·10*

For the reasons given in paragraph 37 of last year's report, the total percentage of desertions (4·05) shown in this statement is less than that (5·21) shown in paragraph 35 above. The statement shows that the increase in the total number of desertions as compared with the previous year, was not connected with the healthiness or unhealthiness of the gardens ; the percentage of desertions from unhealthy gardens was, as is usually the case, higher than that from healthy gardens, but the two percentages were more nearly equal than they were in 1894. In that year, the percentage for healthy gardens was 3·61, and for unhealthy gardens 6·98, or nearly double that for the healthy gardens. In 1895, the figures were 3·86 and 5·91, so that the decrease in the proportion of desertions to total population is entirely due to an improvement in the figures reported for unhealthy gardens.

38. The following table shows the punishments inflicted during the past two years on Act labourers for desertions from healthy and unhealthy gardens separately:

Punishments for desertions in the case of healthy and unhealthy gardens respectively.

A.—From healthy gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																		Others.	
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.			
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar ...	43	39	...	...	...	...	9	6	...	...	2	1	16	26	1	...	6	5	9	1	...	...
Sylhet ...	40	48	...	...	...	...	6	13	24	9	...	4	8	12	...	...	2	7	...	3	...	...
Kámrúp ...	1	13	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	6	...	1
Darrang ...	94	55	...	...	1	...	17	7	7	1	...	2	44	14	4	1	13	7	4	5	4	18
Nowgong ...	18	24	...	...	...	...	7	4	1	3	...	12	8	3	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...
Sibságar ...	218	202	1	14	2	3	108	34	4	13	29	43	21	20	12	12	16	47	24	16	1	...
Lakhimpur ...	176	261	...	4	1	1	30	9	17	10	20	5	47	41	23	43	28	115	2	17	8	16
Total ...	590	642	1	18	4	4	178	73	53	36	51	67	144	119	41	56	66	185	39	49	13	35

B.—From unhealthy gardens.

District.	Number of Act labourers convicted of the offence of desertion.		Number punished with imprisonment for																			
			Two months.		Six weeks.		One month.		Three weeks.		Fifteen days.		Two weeks.		Ten days.		One week.		One day.		Others.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar ...	10	22	...	...	...	...	4	6	1	...	...	...	1	12	2	...	1	2	1	2	...	...
Sylhet ...	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	3	...
Kámrúp ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Darrang ...	21	27	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	1	7	7	...	2	4	12	1	1	6	2
Nowgong ...	33	19	4	...	...	...	19	3	3	6	...	1	2	4	...	4	3	1	2	...	...	...
Sibságar ...	63	16	2	...	1	...	17	6	6	1	7	...	11	5	2	...	17	...	...	3	...	1
Lakhimpur ...	31	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	3	...	6	...	6	...	4	...	1	1	6	2
Total ...	163	99	6	...	1	....	43	17	15	8	10	8	29	28	10	6	29	17	5	9	15	6

From these statements, it appears that no deserter from an unhealthy garden was sentenced to more than one month's imprisonment in 1895, and that the proportion of deserters from unhealthy gardens sentenced to imprisonment for a month to the total number of such deserters convicted was about one to six, as compared with one to three in 1894. In last year's report, the Chief Commissioner had occasion to comment on the undue proportion of labourers convicted of desertion from unhealthy gardens in Nowgong, who were sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. From the further enquiries which were subsequently made, it appeared that the gardens concerned did not appear in the unhealthy list for 1893, and that when the sentences were passed there was no reason to anticipate that they would be unhealthy in 1894. The Chief Commissioner is satisfied from the figures for 1895 that Magistrates, in awarding punishment for desertion, endeavour to ascertain as far as possible whether the garden from which the desertion takes place is a healthy one or not.

39. The following table shows the nationality and sex of the coolies who deserted :

Nationality and sex of deserters.

Nationality.	Sex.	Number of deserters.				Total.		Percentage of desertions on annual strength among					
		Act.		Non-Act.				Act labourers.		Non-Act labourers.		Total.	
		1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Bengal { Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Men	1,807	1,774	1,627	1,909	3,434	3,683	4·97	4·75	4·16	4·63	3·80	3·82
	Women	808	671	1,402	1,530	2,210	2,201	2·47	2·05	3·50	3·59		
Bengal { Behar	Men	362	438	520	703	882	1,141	7·18	8·67	7·10	8·85	6·81	7·93
	Women	172	157	521	622	693	779	4·38	3·88	7·64	8·68		
Bengal { Bengal Proper and Orissa	Men	573	451	1,061	1,099	1,634	1,550	5·83	4·63	5·27	5·14	4·62	3·93
	Women	360	205	960	849	1,320	1,054	3·26	1·94	4·19	3·47		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	Men	484	880	1,735	2,328	2,219	3,208	10·02	16·02	8·25	9·79	8·27	8·88
	Women	360	294	1,517	1,493	1,877	1,787	9·03	6·86	7·69	6·59		
Central Provinces	Men	149	325	65	214	214	539	9·80	9·73	9·47	14·94	9·41	9·29
	Women	100	130	40	55	140	185	8·84	5·94	9·07	7·03		
Madras	Men	142	71	102	120	244	191	5·97	3·27	4·66	4·55	4·67	3·40
	Women	77	28	93	89	170	117	3·94	1·75	3·93	3·33		
Bombay	Men	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	3·03	1·64	3·26	·69
	Women	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	5·55	...		
Nepal	Men	29	6	23	1	52	7	35·78	12·13	22·30	1·25	24·02	8·79
	Women	4	6	3	9	7	15	14·99	24·00	4·47	8·65		
Assam	Men	152	79	706	753	858	832	8·23	4·89	9·31	7·08	7·80	4·77
	Women	54	20	95	76	149	96	3·58	1·51	4·80	3·13		
Total	Men	3,698	4,024	5,840	7,128	9,538	11,152	5·97	6·20	5·95	6·53	5·96	6·41
	Women	1,935	1,511	4,632	4,723	6,567	6,234	3·44	2·66	4·91	4·58	4·36	3·90
Grand total	.....	5,633	5,535	10,472	11,851	16,105	17,386	4·76	4·55	5·44	5·58	5·18	5·21

The table calls for little comment. Desertions were, as usual, more numerous among men than among women, and the order of demerit of the principal localities of recruitment is the same as that of the preceding year, *viz.*, the Central Provinces, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Behar, Bengal Proper, and Orissa, and Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas.

CHAPTER V.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HEALTH OF GARDEN POPULATION.

Birth-rate.

40. The following table shows the birth-rate per mille on tea-gardens during each of the past two years, calculated on the mean strength of adult female labourers :

District.	1894.	1895.
Cachar	79·7	72·3
Sylhet	85·1	77·6
Kámrúp	88·3	105·6
Darrang	54·6	56·8
Nowgong	67·5	59·0
Sibságar	89·7	79·9
Lákhimpur	81·7	71·3
Total	80·2	73·0

Birth-rate according to nationality.

41. The table below distributes the births among the different nationalities, and shows the birth-rate among each class calculated on the mean strength of adult females :

District.	Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.			Behar.			Bengal Proper and Orissa.			North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Central Provinces.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	9,191	650	70·7	3,332	300	90·0	12,273	802	65·3	7,531	622	82·5	314	18	57·3
Sylhet	8,158	671	82·5	3,033	232	76·4	6,898	580	84·0	15,066	1,123	74·5	474	26	54·8
Kámrúp	458	56	122·2	130	6	46·1	392	34	86·7	27	..	..	21	..	..
Darrang	9,984	640	64·1	810	52	64·2	3,333	116	34·8	1,155	74	64·0	540	35	64·8
Nowgong	3,481	244	70·0	265	2	7·5	808	21	25·9	191	1	5·2	231	9	38·9
Sibságar	21,662	1,976	91·2	2,551	205	80·3	6,656	402	60·3	2,262	75	33·1	475	31	65·2
Lakhimpur ..	22,262	1,701	76·4	1,092	68	62·2	4,716	259	54·9	973	34	34·9	1,048	97	92·5
Total of 1895 ..	75,197	5,938	78·9	11,217	865	77·1	35,079	2,214	63·1	27,208	1,929	70·8	3,106	216	69·5
„ „ 1894 ..	72,820	5,620	77·2	10,745	865	80·5	33,947	2,822	83·1	23,739	2,111	88·9	1,610	84	52·2

District.	Madras.			Bombay.			Nepal.			Assam.			Total.		
	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.	Annual strength of women employed under Act I or otherwise.	Births.	Birth-rate per mille.
Cachar	392	15	38·2	24	..	..	40	..	..	160	..	..	33,263	2,407	72·3
Sylhet	2,167	126	58·1	3	..	..	9	..	..	35	26	742·8	35,845	2,784	77·6
Kámrúp	10	1	100·0	1	1	1,000·0	..	..	..	170	30	176·4	1,211	128	105·6
Darrang	576	51	88·5	..	..	..	52	..	..	1,924	76	39·5	18,378	1,044	56·8
Nowgong	52	11	211·5	..	..	..	2	..	..	352	30	85·2	5,386	318	59·0
Sibságar	634	14	22·0	4	..	..	1	..	..	751	97	129·1	35,001	2,800	79·9
Lakhimpur	437	22	50·3	9	..	..	4	..	..	443	30	67·7	30,984	2,211	71·3
Total of 1895.. ..	4,271	240	56·2	41	1	24·4	111	.	..	3,837	289	75·3	160,072	11,692	73 ·
„ „ *1894*.. ..	*4,292*	*297*	*69·2*	*21*	..	..	*91*	*6*	*65·9*	*3,467*	*284*	*81·9*	*150,738*	*12,089*	*80·2*

These results are eminently unsatisfactory. In the report for 1893, figures were given showing that the registered birth-rate on tea-gardens, calculated on the strength of adult females, had steadily diminished from 13·31 per cent. in 1882 to 7·97 per cent. in 1893. The figures from 1882 to 1895 are given in the margin. There was a very slight improvement in 1894, when the percentage rose to 8·02, but in 1895 the percentage fell to 7·30, which is the lowest on record. The subject was fully discussed in paragraph 42 of the report for 1893, and the conclusion come to was that the lowness of the birth-rate was due to defective registration. In the subsidiary orders which were issued to Deputy Commissioners in connection with that report, the following passage occurs :

1882	13·31
1883	11·94
1884	11·32
1885	11·51
1886	10·29
1887	10·02
1888	10·32
1889	10·39
1890	8·98
1891	9·42
1892	8·35
1893	7·97
1894	8·02
1895	7·30

Paragraphs 42 and 47.—Registration of births and registration of deaths among children and infants.—The figures given in these paragraphs leave no doubt in the mind of the Chief Commissioner that the registration of births, as well as the registration of the deaths of infants and non-working children, is neglected. The Chief Commissioner looks to inspectors, and especially to medical inspectors, carefully to scrutinize the record of births and of deaths of children on gardens which they inspect, and to impress on employers the necessity for improving the registration. The Chief Commissioner has reason to believe that the keeping of the registers is, as a rule, left almost entirely to the subordinates employed on gardens, and that managers do not take as great a personal interest in the matter as could be wished. It has been suggested to the Chief Commissioner that managers might do much to improve the accuracy of the returns by insisting on the registers being laid before them at regular intervals of, say, at least once a fortnight. Even a cursory examination, attested by their initials and the date, would suffice as a material check on the negligence of the subordinates in charge of the registers, and do much to enhance the value of the statistics reported. I am to request you to commend the suggestion to the attention of managers in your district, and to invite their co-operation in an endeavour to improve the accuracy of the returns. If the present inaccurate results continue to be reported, the Chief Commissioner will be compelled to consider whether additional returns should not be prescribed under these two heads. The Chief Commissioner will be very unwilling to add to the returns which employers have to submit ; but if there is no improvement, he will have no option but to take some such step.

In paragraph 41 of last year's report, these orders and other measures taken to improve the registration of births were alluded to, and it was repeated that if there were no improvement in the reporting, the Chief Commissioner would be compelled to consider whether additional registers and returns of births should not be prescribed. In issuing subsidiary orders on the report for 1894, the attention of the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and all Deputy Commissioners was specially invited to this subject, and they were asked to suggest what steps should be taken to effect an improvement in the registration of births. The replies received leave little room for doubt that the figures relating to vital statistics reported by employers, though on the whole fairly accurate in respect of the deaths of adults, are extremely defective in the case of both births

and deaths of children. Inspecting officers have of late been giving greater attention to the subject at their inspections, and various suggestions have been thrown out to secure an improvement; the Chief Commissioner has considered these suggestions, and has decided in the first instance to try the effect of certain proposals made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts. Orders will accordingly issue shortly, directing District Officers to address all employers on the subject, inviting their co-operation in effecting a reform, and warning them of the liabilities they incur in keeping incorrect registers and making incorrect returns. District Officers will be required to carefully scrutinize the returns of vital statistics at the end of each half-year, and to institute enquiries in all cases in which registration appears to have been specially defective. If the result of such enquiries warrants the conclusion that the figures returned are inaccurate, the employers concerned will be formally warned that a repetition of the neglect will entail a prosecution under section 163 of the Act. If, at the end of the succeeding half-year, the result of the scrutiny shows that, notwithstanding the warning, the returns are again incorrect, prosecutions will be instituted in a few of the worst cases. Sir William Ward does not believe that there is any intentional disregard, on the part of employers, of their responsibilities in this matter. The defective registration of births is probably due solely to the want of systematic supervision of the clerk or other person in actual charge of the registers, and it seems certain that if employers could be induced to recognise the importance of the matter, and to take a personal interest in securing accuracy in the figures, the defects complained of would soon disappear.

Death-rate for the year.

42. The statistics of mortality for the year, and for each half-year separately, are given in the table below, with the corresponding figures of the previous year:

District.	Deaths among all classes of labourers, including children.						Ratio of deaths per mille.					
							Half-yearly.				Annual.	
	First half-year.		Second half-year.		Total.		First half-year.		Second half-year.			
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar	1,171	1,927	1,494	1,555	2,665	3,482	10·8	17·5	13·8	13·8	24·6	31·3
Sylhet	1,287	1,858	1,651	2,278	2,938	4,136	12·6	16·4	15·8	18·6	28·4	35·0
Kámrúp	60	94	83	64	143	158	17·9	27·2	24·4	17·8	42·3	45·0
Darrang	760	948	884	1,057	1,644	2,005	14·2	16·5	16·0	17·6	30·2	34·1
Nowgong	347	415	420	416	767	831	20·3	23·3	24·5	22·7	44·8	46·1
Sibságar	1,838	1,596	2,418	2,001	4,256	3,597	16·3	13·5	21·0	16·5	37·3	30·0
Lakhimpur	1,497	1,636	1,895	1,895	3,392	3,531	15·8	16·8	19·8	18·7	35·6	35·5
Total	6,960	8,474	8,845	9,266	15,805	17,740	14·2	16·4	17·7	17·2	31·9	33·6

The death-rate was thus higher than in the previous year; but, in comparing the two, it must be remembered that the death-rate in 1894 was exceptionally low; it was, in fact, the lowest on record since 1876, with the exception of the year 1881, when the death

rate was 31·7. The following table compares the average triennial death-rate during the last eighteen years :

	Death-rate per mille.		
1878 ...	66·1	Average	50·7
1879 ...	50·9		
1880 ...	35·2		
1881 ...	31·7	„	36·9
1882 ...	37·8		
1883 ...	41·3		
1884 ...	43·2	„	39·9
1885 ...	36·8		
1886 ...	39·8		
1887 ...	36·2	„	39·2
1888 ...	39·8		
1889 ...	41·8		
1890 ...	34·3	„	37·6
1891 ...	36·8		
1892 ...	41·9		
1893 ...	33·2	„	32·9
1894 ...	31·9		
1895 ...	33·6		

The improvement which has taken place of late years in the rate of mortality on tea-gardens is very marked. The improvement is due, partly to the clearance of jungle, which has made the country healthier than it was formerly, partly to the close supervision over the sanitary arrangements on gardens which is exercised under the orders of the Local Administration, and partly to the greater attention which is now paid to this important matter by the employers themselves. No one acquainted with the tea districts twenty years ago, when Sir William Ward first came to the Province, could fail to be struck, on revisiting them now, with the vastly improved condition of the houses in which the coolies live, of the water-supply, and of the general sanitary surroundings of the lines ; twenty years ago, hospitals on gardens were practically unknown, and new coolies were seldom or never dieted, whereas at the present day, no well-managed garden is without a hospital, while the practice of dieting new coolies is common everywhere. The improvement is greater even than the figures disclose. It has been shown in previous reports that the death-rate varies directly with the number of newly-imported labourers, and the proportion of such labourers to the total labouring population is now greater than it was formerly. The largely-increased demand for labour, moreover, renders it necessary to have recourse to an inferior class of recruits, and it is notorious that the class of labour now imported is, on the whole, inferior in physique to the class obtainable in 1876.

The following figures compare the death-rate reported from tea-gardens in Assam during the years 1893—95 with the reported death-rate among the general population in each province in India for the last three years for which complete figures are available : A column has been added showing the estimated death-rate during the ten years 1881—1891 in the larger provinces of India, compiled by Mr. F. S. Hardy, F.I.A., F.S.S., *vide* page 155, Volume II of the Report on the Census of India, 1891 :

	Death-rate per mille.			Average.	Estimated average, according to Census Report.
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1892—94.	1881—1891.
Madras	22·3	19·3	20·0	20·5	36·0
Bombay... ...	32·50	27·20	32·26	30·65	35·4
Bengal	31·92	28·21	34·83	31·65	44·8
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	34·11	24·10	42·51	33·57	37·7
Punjab	49·48	28·13	36·52	38·04	36·0
Central Provinces ...	34·14	27·70	37·22	33·02	...
Assam	34·21	30·28	30·69	31·72	...
Hyderabad ...	28·8	32·6	42·0	34·4	...
				Average.	
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1893—95.	
Assam tea gardens ...	33·2	31·9	33·6	32·9	...

The comparison is by no means unfavourable to the tea-gardens of Assam, for whatever defects there may be in the registration of deaths of children, there is no reason to suppose that deaths of adults are not accurately recorded. On the contrary, it is very probable that they are more fully reported than is the case among the general population, either in Assam or in other provinces. Allowance, too, must be made for the fact that the tea-garden population contains a large number of new immigrants, who are unaccustomed to the climate of Assam, who in many cases arrive in the province in a physically weak state, and who are, in addition, exposed to all the risks to health attendant on a change of diet and habits. As the year 1895 was remarkable for an unusually large number of new immigrants, it is a matter for congratulation that the death-rate was not larger than it was, and the year must be considered to have been a healthy one.

43. The following table shows the mortality among both Act and non-Act adult labourers during each of the past two years :

Death-rate amongst adults.

District.	Annual strength of total adult population of both Act and non-Act labourers.		Number of deaths among adults.						Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.					
			Act.		Non-Act.		Total.		Act.		Non-Act.		Total.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar	66,641	68,436	443	524	1,721	1,730	2,164	2,254	61·5	76·4	28·9	28·2	32·4	32·9
Sylhet	61,456	71,201	446	665	1,685	2,317	2,131	2,982	48·4	58·4	32·1	38·5	34·6	41·7
Kámrúp	2,250	2,400	47	56	60	57	107	113	62·6	87·8	39·8	32·2	47·4	47·3
Darrang	37,068	40,214	880	1,385	364	331	1,244	1,716	38·1	57·2	25·9	20·5	33·5	42·6
Nowgong	11,102	12,114	278	311	286	333	564	644	71·3	64·9	39·7	45·4	50·8	53·1
Sibságar	69,116	73,210	1,979	1,642	984	927	2,963	2,569	52·9	44·2	31·0	25·5	42·8	35·0
Lakhimpur	63,130	66,689	1,705	1,733	748	931	2,453	2,664	46·6	46·6	28·2	31·5	38·8	39·9
Total	310,766	334,298	5,778	6,316	5,848	6,626	11,626	12,942	48·9	52·8	30·3	31·2	37·4	38·7

The ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength among adults thus rose from 37·4 in 1894 to 38·7, and this increase in the rate of mortality occurred both among Act and among non-Act adults. The figures for Kámrúp may be neglected, as the ratio is calculated on a comparatively small labour force. Excluding Kámrúp, it will be seen that the increase in the Act mortality occurred in the Cachar, Sylhet, and Darrang districts. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, does not attempt to furnish an explanation, but contents himself with referring to the figures of previous years, and saying that he thinks that 1894 must have been an exceptional year. From another part of his report, however, it appears probable that the increase was due to the importation of large numbers of coolies of inferior physique from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The same cause appears to have been at work in the Sylhet district ; the Deputy Commissioner writes :

> The enhanced death-rate is due, partly to the generally unhealthy character of the past year, and partly to the importation of an unusually large number of coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The percentage of deaths is always high among this class of labourers, and it follows that a large influx of such persons must unfavourably affect the total death-rate. There are certain localities in Sylhet where the North-Westerns have a fair chance of life ; there are other places which are notoriously unsuited to them.

As already stated (paragraph 3 above), the recent increase in the number of coolies imported from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh is a matter calling for the special attention of District Officers, who should do all in their power to discourage such importations in localities which experience has shown to be unsuitable to coolies of this nationality.

The very large increase in the Act death-rate in Darrang is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the importation of labourers of inferior physique, owing to neglect on the part of employers to take advantage of the provisions of sections 42 A and 70 of the Act. This neglect has been referred to in paragraph 6 above.

The increase in the non-Act death-rate occurred principally in the Sylhet, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur districts. In Sylhet, it is attributed to the same cause as the increase in the Act death-rate. In Nowgong, it was due largely to the prevalence of *kála-azár*. For the increase in Lakhimpur, no cause has been assigned by the Deputy Commissioner.

44. The following table shows the recorded causes of deaths which occurred among Act coolies during each of the past two years :

Causes of deaths among Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of Act labourers employed in 1895.		Deaths from								Total of columns 4 to 10.		Annual rate of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	1895	6,891	6,821	125	75	115	110	35	50	14	234	290	524	76·4
	1894	*7,283*	*7,123*	*110*	*85*	*83*	*95*	*25*	*15*	*30*	*191*	*252*	*443*	*61·5*
Sylhet ...	1895	10,727	11,725	104	47	198	56	35	57	168	225	440	665	58·4
	1894	*8,954*	*9,451*	*93*	...	*91*	*34*	*59*	...	*169*	*227*	*219*	*446*	*48·4*
Kámrúp ...	1895	658	598	14	1	6	2	10	4	19	38	18	56	87·8
	1894	*781*	*729*	*8*	*1*	*4*	*8*	*12*	*2*	*12*	*20*	*27*	*47*	*62·6*
Darrang ...	1895	23,672	24,631	333	70	288	67	295	152	180	643	742	1,385	57·2
	1894	*23,128*	*22,964*	*175*	*89*	*156*	*38*	*174*	*139*	*109*	*402*	*478*	*880*	*38·1*
Nowgong ...	1895	4,518	5,066	29	10	34	139	18	26	55	154	157	311	64·9
	1894	*3,854*	*3,944*	*21*	*9*	*31*	*77*	*27*	*6*	*107*	*131*	*147*	*278*	*71·3*
Sibságar ...	1895	36,688	37,319	226	117	415	111	174	...	599	740	902	1,642	44·2
	1894	*37,817*	*37,065*	*437*	*160*	*495*	*102*	*114*	...	*671*	*811*	*1,168*	*1,979*	*52·9*
Lakhimpur ...	1895	36,345	37,963	276	151	368	135	222	135	446	832	901	1,733	46·6
	1894	*37,158*	*36,075*	*224*	*101*	*407*	*140*	*216*	*127*	*490*	*774*	*931*	*1,705*	*46·6*
Total ...	1895	119,500	124,124	1,107	471	1,424	620	789	424	1,481	2,866	3,450	6,316	52·8
	1894	*118,976*	*117,352*	*1,068*	*445*	*1,267*	*494*	*627*	*289*	*1,588*	*2,556*	*3,222*	*5,778*	*48·9*
	1893	*121,502*	*122,633*	*1,002*	*564*	*1,324*	*535*	*943*	*250*	*1,706*	*2,559*	*3,765*	*6,324*	*51·7*

Dysentery, fever, and respiratory diseases accounted for more deaths than in either of the two preceding years.

45. The following table shows the recorded causes of deaths among non-Act adult coolies during each of the past two years:

Causes of deaths among non-Act labourers.

District.		Mean strength of non-Act coolies employed in 1895.		Deaths from								Total of columns 4 to 10.			Annual ratio of deaths per mille.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *ancylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.		First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
Cachar	1895	60,356	62,805	350	325	425	396	34	115	85		1,151	579	1,730	28·2
	1894	*59,400*	*59,477*	*313*	*315*	*275*	*278*	*18*	*167*	*355*		*796*	*925*	*1,721*	*23·9*
Sylhet	1895	57,498	62,452	209	195	586	290	126	137	774		1,079	1,238	2,317	38·5
	1894	*51,793*	*52,714*	*201*	...	*373*	*215*	*91*	...	*805*		*716*	*969*	*1,685*	*32·2*
Kámrúp	1895	1,671	1,874	7	1	4	25	5	2	13		28	29	57	32·1
	1894	*1,445*	*1,544*	*6*	*1*	*5*	*28*	*1*	...	*19*		*22*	*38*	*60*	*39·8*
Darrang	1895	15,652	16,532	43	28	52	33	49	70	56		172	159	331	20·5
	1894	*13,330*	*14,714*	*36*	*25*	*45*	*27*	*50*	*71*	*110*		*182*	*182*	*364*	*26·0*
Nowgong	1895	7,318	7,327	21	10	34	163	13	33	59		161	172	333	45·4
	1894	*7,192*	*7,215*	*17*	*17*	*33*	*102*	*19*	*4*	*94*		*127*	*159*	*286*	*39·7*
Sibságar	1895	35,409	37,004	118	82	173	94	51	...	409		430	497	927	25·5
	1894	*30,607*	*32,743*	*227*	*62*	*183*	*78*	*30*	...	*404*		*406*	*518*	*984*	*31·0*
Lakhimpur	1895	28,651	30,420	136	65	196	73	69	93	299		448	483	931	31·5
	1894	*25,577*	*27,450*	*79*	*58*	*150*	*72*	*81*	*38*	*270*		*319*	*429*	*748*	*28·0*
Total	1895	206,556	218,416	884	706	1,470	1,074	347	450	1,695		3,469	3,157	6,626	31·2
	1894	*189,347*	*195,859*	*879*	*478*	*1,064*	*800*	*290*	*280*	*2,057*		*2,628*	*3,220*	*5,848*	*30·3*
	1893	*178,773*	*182,209*	*949*	*425*	*709*	*636*	*243*	*272*	*1,952*		*2,108*	*3,078*	*5,186*	*28·5*

As in the case of Act adults, there was a considerable increase in the number of deaths from dysentery, fever and respiratory diseases.

46. The following statement shows the causes of deaths and the death-rate among children (*i.e.*, from birth to sixteen years of age) during each of the past two years :

Death-rate amongst children.

District.	Mean strength of children in 1895.		Deaths from							Total of columns 4 to 10.			Total of 1894.	Annual ratio of deaths per mille.	
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.		1895.	1894.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Cachar	42,252	42,278	275	252	245	215	5	95	141	542	686	1,228	501	29·0	12·1
Sylhet	44,979	47,946	87	85	272	301	40	36	333	554	600	1,154	807	24·8	19·2
Kámrúp	1,130	1,116	5	...	1	8	2	...	29	28	17	45	36	39·9	32·0
Darrang	17,914	18,685	27	28	74	23	43	36	58	133	156	289	400	15·7	28·0
Nowgong	5,903	5,872	7	6	21	80	7	11	55	100	87	187	203	31·7	33·9
Sibságar	45,565	46,648	60	69	254	207	25	...	413	426	602	1,028	1,293	22·2	28·9
Lakhimpur	32,199	32,579	67	70	218	190	49	52	221	356	511	867	939	26·6	29·5
Total of 1895	189,944	195,125	528	510	1,085	1,024	171	230	1,250	2,139	2,659	4,798	4,179	24·9	...
„ „ *1894*	*182,087*	*185,051*	*441*	*230*	*898*	*845*	*135*	*104*	*1,526*	*1,776*	*2,403*	*4,179*	...	...	*22·7*

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These figures, though nearer the truth than those of last year, cannot be accepted as even approximately correct. Some improvement is observable in the figures reported from the Surma Valley districts and from Kámrúp, but the other districts in the Assam Valley show even a lower death-rate than that reported last year, when the rate reported was far too low for it to be possible to accept it as correct. There is no doubt that a very large number of deaths among children escape registration, but it is to be hoped that the action which will shortly be taken (see paragraph 41 above) will bring about an improvement in future returns.

Mortality according to country of origin.

47. The following statement illustrates the mortality among adult tea-garden coolies distributed according to nationality:

Nationality.	Sex.	Annual strength of adults of both Act and Non-Act labourers.		Deaths amongst adults of both classes.		Ratio per mille of deaths to annual strength.	
		1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Bengal — Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas.	Men ...	148,361	153,738	2,722	2,847	36·1	37·0
	Women ...			2,647	2,849		
Bengal — Pehar ...	Men ...	23,100	24,252	206	782	46·6	55·0
	Women ...			459	552		
Bengal — Bengal Proper and Orissa.	Men ...	63,881	66,206	941	770	31·2	25·4
	Women ...			1,056	910		
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Men ...	49,572	56,637	1,351	1,716	46·2	51·1
	Women ...			941	1,174		
Central Provinces ...	Men ...	3,802	7,925	184	423	72·5	85·9
	Women ...			97	271		
Madras	Men ...	8,861	9,061	198	174	46·7	41·6
	Women ...			216	202		
Bombay	Men ...	62	110	...	3	...	116·9
	Women ...			...	6		
Nepal	Men ...	246	256	6	4	28·5	22·7
	Women ...			1	2		
Assam	Men ...	12,878	16,104	102	172	14·8	16·0
	Women ...			88	85		
Total	Men ...	160,028	174,226	6,121	6,891	38·2	40·7
	Women ...	150,738	160,072	5,505	6,051	36·4	37·7
Grand total ...	.....	310,766	334,298	11,626	12,942	37·4	38·7

The Central Provinces again show the highest rate of mortality among the provinces from which labourers are drawn in considerable numbers, and the death-rate amongst labourers of that nationality has now reached the formidable figure of 85·9 per mille. The number of deaths has increased in all districts, but especially in Lakhimpur, where there were 299 deaths out of a total strength of 2,847, the ratio per mille, among the men having been no less than 122·2. This is partly explained by the fact that

the recruitment of Central Provinces coolies is of comparatively recent introduction, so that the proportion of new coolies to the total number of coolies of this class is abnormally high. At the same time, it is not improbable that, with the greater activity in recruiting from these provinces which has taken place during the last two years, sufficient care has not been taken in selecting suitable coolies for the Assam climate and tea-garden work. This remark applies also, but to a less degree, to the coolies imported from Behar and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, which come next in the order of demerit as regards mortality. Nearly the whole of the deaths among North-Western Provinces and Oudh labourers and nearly half of the deaths amongst Beharis occurred in the Sylhet and Cachar districts. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, writes as follows on the subject:

Following my predecessor's example of last year, I will take the North-Western Provinces and Behar in one group and Bengal and Chota Nagpur in another. The mortality in the former is 57·2 per mille, against 16·9 per mille in the latter. These figures show even more clearly than last year's figures that North-Western Provinces and Behar coolies are not suited to Cachar. I entirely agree with the remarks made by my predecessor in last year's report, and am of the opinion that the time has now arrived to adopt the drastic remedy suggested by him of forbidding the recruitment of such coolies for this district generally, except in the case of gardens who can clearly show that they are suited to North-West labour.

The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, says:

In my opinion, the high ratio of deaths amongst Central Provinces coolies is due partly to the fact that some of the so-called Central Provinces coolies were really North-Westers.

The figures clearly show that the mortality among immigrants from the Central Provinces, from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and from Behar, is unduly high. The Chief Commissioner does not think it would be expedient, if it were possible, to issue any such general orders as those suggested by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, but before passing orders on the reports on individual gardens that appear on the unhealthy list, he invariably requires information to be given as to the extent to which importation of coolies of inferior physique is responsible for the excessive mortality. And in cases where a heavy death-rate is shown to be due to the importation of an unsuitable class of coolies, action under section 132 of the Act is the most suitable remedy. It will be seen from paragraph 49 of last year's report and from paragraph 49 of this report that several gardens in Cachar which have imported unsuitable North-Western labourers, have been closed to labourers from those provinces.

Proportion of unhealthy gardens.

48. The following statement shows the number and proportion of unhealthy gardens in each district during the last two years. Gardens are now classed as unhealthy, on which the average mortality, either for the garden population as a whole, or for the Act or non-Act population taken separately, exceeds 7 per cent., and the number of deaths from which the average is struck is not less than 10:

District.	Number of gardens.			Number of unhealthy gardens.			Percentage of unhealthy gardens.		
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1893.	1894.	1895.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cachar	187	187	190	22	18	18	11·7	9·5	9·4
Sylhet	119	125	130*	2	9	8	1·6	7·2	6·1
Kámrúp	32	32	29	3	2	2	9·3	6·2	6·9
Darrang	88	88	85	17	9	16	19·3	10·2	18·8
Nowgong	55	55	54	8	9	8	14·5	16·3	14·8
Sibságar	181	177	177	15	28	9	8·2	15·8	5·0
Lakhimpur	143	143	141	8	11	9	5·5	7·6	6·3
Total	805	807	806	75	86	70	9·3	10·6	8·7

* Exclusive of two gardens which do not submit Returns Nos. 50 and 51.

Previous to 1889, only gardens which were unhealthy in respect of the total population, were placed on the unhealthy list. For the purpose of comparison the following table is added, showing the number of unhealthy gardens in each district during the years 1882 to 1895, *i.e.*, since Act I of 1882 came into force, classified according to the method in force before 1889 :

District.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894	1895.
Cachar ...	3	5	9	1	10	7	7	12	1	5	8	3	2	...
Sylhet ...	...	14	15	18	13	5	4	10	1	3	3	...	...	...
Kámrúp ...	2	2	3	3	...	...	2	1	6	4	5	1	1	1
Darrang ...	14	14	14	9	8	10	12	10	2	5	12	...	...	3
Nowgong ...	16	14	16	3	4	2	2	6	2	3	5	5	7	...
Sibságar ...	7	11	25	5	15	10	21	18	11	6	14	1	6	2
Lakhimpur ...	15	13	11	3	14	15	17	12	5	4	8	4	5	5
Total ..	57*	73†	93‡	42§	64	49	65	69	28	30	55	14	21	11

* Of these, 13 gardens had less than 10 deaths on each.
† This includes two camps in which coolies recruited by a Local Board were located.
‡ The number of deaths on three gardens was less than 10.
§ Ditto two ditto.

The figures given in this table show that, compared with previous years, the three years ending in 1895 have been remarkable for the small number of gardens unhealthy in respect of the total population. The gradual improvement in the rate of mortality on tea-gardens, which has taken place of late years, has been dealt with in paragraph 42 above. In the present connection, it will suffice to explain that many gardens which show a low death-rate when calculated on the total population, are brought on to the list of unhealthy gardens under the system of classification now followed, owing to a high mortality amongst the Act population, which again is generally due to the fact that the only Act coolies employed on them are new and unacclimatised. In the following paragraphs an account is given of the unhealthy gardens in each district and of the action which has been taken by the Chief Commissioner in each case. Except where the contrary is expressly stated, all gardens unhealthy on the Act population in 1895 have been inspected by the Civil Surgeon in the early part of the current year under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, and the decision come to regarding each garden has been issued after a consideration of the Civil Surgeon's report.

Unhealthy gardens in Cachar.

49. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Cachar district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Kallinagar ...	136	143	4	6	10	29·4	41·9	71·3
	2. Kassipur ...	233	268	12	17	29	51·5	63·4	114·9
	3. Dulugram ...	185	163	3	9	12	16·2	55·2	71·4
	4. Pathicherra ...	154	172	6	8	14	38·9	46·5	85·4
	5. Thailu ...	149	197	7	8	15	46·9	40·6	87·5
	6. Joypur-Burthal ...	133	127	4	7	11	30·0	55·1	85·1
	7. Narainpur ...	42	112	1	11	12	23·8	98·2	122·0
	8. Rosekandi ...	267	229	21	13	34	78·6	56·7	135·3
	9. Ratanpur ...	65	91	4	10	14	61·5	109·8	171·3
	10. Chandowa ...	48	69	5	10	15	104·1	144·9	249·0
	11. Bandhu ...	183	202	14	14	28	76·5	69·3	145·8
Hailákándi	12. Ainakhal ...	553	523	17	37	54	30·7	70·7	101·4
	13. Lakhinagar ...	476	444	19	30	49	39·9	67·5	107·4
	14. Barnibraes ...	154	124	4	8	12	25·9	64·5	90·4
	15. Lallacherra ...	149	135	6	6	12	40·2	44·4	84·6
	Total ...	2,927	2,999	127	194	321	43·4	64·7	108·1

Unhealthy on Act Population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	1. Kallinagar ...	1	7	...	...	...	2	...	10
	2. Kassipur ...	2	8	3	2	4	10	...	29
	3. Dulugram ...	...	4	3	2	2	1	...	12
	4. Pathicherra ...	2	7	1	...	...	3	1	14
	5. Thailu ...	...	3	1	3	1	7	...	15
	6. Joypur-Burthal ...	1	1	2	1	2	4	...	11
	7. Narainpur ...	2	...	4	1	...	5	...	12
	8. Rosekandi ...	....	5	2	2	20	5	...	34
	9. Ratanpur ...	...	1	...	3	5	4	1	14
	10. Chandowa ...	1	1	6	7	...	...	...	15
	11. Bandhu ...	...	7	9	9	...	3	...	28
Hailákándi ...	12. Ainakhal ...	4	26	1	...	12	4	7	54
	13. Lakhinagar ...	1	22	1	2	11	9	3	49
	14. Barnibraes ...	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	12
	15. Lallacherra ...	...	2	...	1	6	...	3	12
	Total ...	15	95	34	34	67	60	16	321

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual
Sadr ...	16. Urrunaband ...	1,160	1,171	39	44	83	33·6	37·5	71·1
	17. Paloi ...	87	260	12	6	18	137·9	23·0	160·9
Hailákándi ...	18. Mohanpur ...	565	605	31	22	53	54·8	36·3	91·1
	Total ...	1,812	2,036	82	72	154	45·2	35·3	80·5

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Dairrhœa.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	16. Urrunaband ...	21	10	9	4	1	8	30	83
	17. Paloi ...	6	2	1	2	3	2	2	18
Hailákándi ...	18. Mohanpur ...	8	5	2	25	6	3	4	53
	Total ...	35	17	12	31	10	13	36	154

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The following is a summary of the action taken with regard to the above-mentioned gardens :

(1) *Kallinagar.*—The unhealthiness appears to have been due to special causes, none of which were attributable to any want of sanitary precautions on the part of the management. No special action was considered to be necessary.

(2) *Kassipur.*—This garden was healthy in 1894, and the excessive mortality in 1895, though probably due to some extent to the defective sanitary arrangements on the garden, was mainly due to the importation of an unsuitable class of coolies. If the mortality for the first half-year of 1896 should prove to be greater than 4 per cent., the Civil Surgeon will inspect it again under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act before the close of the current year. If the defects already noticed by him regarding the drainage, hospital and feeding of the coolies, have not been remedied, and if the importation of inferior coolies has continued, he will report whether the garden can continue to be considered fit for the residence of Act labourers.

(3) *Dulugram.*—This garden has been unhealthy for the last six years, except in 1892. The Chief Commissioner has declared, under section 132 of the Act, that the garden is unfit for the residence of Act labourers generally, and has directed that it should be closed to such labourers. The Deputy Commissioner will give effect to these orders at once.

(4) *Pathicherra.*—A committee was held on the garden on the 22nd March 1896. The unanimous finding of the committee was that it was unnecessary to close the garden or any part of it to any class of labourers. The high death-rate on this garden, however, appears to have been due to the importation of bad batches of coolies, and the Deputy Commissioner has been requested to inform the manager that, if the death-rate this year is again excessive, action will be taken under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, and that the plea of bad importations will not be admitted as an excuse for high mortality.

(5) *Thailu and* (11) *Bandhu.*—These gardens have been unhealthy for the last five years, and the continued unhealthiness is ascribed to the importation of bad batches of coolies. The Chief Commissioner has declared, under section 132 of the Act, that the gardens are unfit for the residence of Act labourers, and has directed that they should be closed to all such labour.

(6) *Joypur and Burthal.*—The excessive mortality was reported by the Civil Surgeon to be due to the importation of unfit and sickly coolies. There were, however, no deaths of Act coolies between the 1st January and 7th February 1896, and there appears to be a prospect of an improvement this year. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to warn the manager of the garden that he is held entirely responsible for the excessive mortality which has taken place, and which is directly traceable to the importation of unfit labourers ; and that, if the garden appears on the unhealthy list for 1896, it will probably be entirely closed to Act labour.

(7) *Narainpur.*—This garden was healthy in 1894, and the mortality during the early part of the current year was low. There appears to be nothing to warrant action being taken under section 132 of the Act.

(8) *Rosekandi.*—A committee was held on the garden on the 2nd December 1895. The unhealthiness was found to be due to the importation of coolies of inferior physique. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the finding of the majority of the committee that neither the estate nor any part of it was unfit for the residence of labourers generally, or of any particular class of labourers, but the Deputy Commissioner has been requested to warn the manager of the garden of his responsibility for the class of coolies he imports.

(9) *Ratanpur.*—This garden was unhealthy in 1893, but healthy in 1894. The percentage of deaths in 1895 was very high, and it appears that the excessive mortality was due to the importation of coolies of inferior physique. If the garden appears on the unhealthy list for 1896, it will probably be found necessary to close it altogether to Act labour.

(10) *Chandowa.*—The Civil Surgeon, who inspected under section 130, found that the unhealthiness of this garden was due to reckless importation of inferior coolies from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The death-rate in the first five months of the current year was no less than 9·85 per cent., and the Chief Commissioner has, therefore, closed the garden to future importations from that Province.

(12) *Ainakhal and* (13) *Lakhinagar.*—The importation of bad batches is chiefly responsible for the unhealthiness of these gardens, which were healthy in 1894. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to warn the managers that they are held responsible for the class of labourers they import, and that if in 1896 the death-rate is again excessive and is attributed to the importation of an unsuitable class of labourers, the Chief Commissioner will probably have to close the gardens altogether to Act labour.

(14) *Barnibraes and* (15) *Lallacherra.*—The importation of unsuitable coolies, which had brought these gardens on the unhealthy list, appears to have ceased, but the Deputy Commissioner has been requested to watch carefully all future importations to these gardens.

(16) *Urrunaband.*—This garden was unhealthy on non-Act population, and the excessive mortality was due to cholera and small-pox. The Deputy Commissioner has been asked to put pressure on the manager to carry out the Civil Surgeon's recommendations.

(17) *Paloi.*—This garden has not been inspected by the Civil Surgeon. It is a newly-opened garden.

(18) *Mohanpur.*—This garden suffered from influenza among the non-Act population. No special action was considered necessary.

The following action was taken in 1895 in respect of the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1894, but did not appear on the unhealthy list for 1895 :

Scottpur and Kumbir.—These gardens were inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Act. No special action was found to be called for.

Martichcrra.—An inspection was held on this garden by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in place of the committee ordered in the Provincial Immigration Report for 1894. The excessive mortality was due partly to an outbreak of cholera, and partly also to the importation of an inferior lot of coolies from Ganjam. The garden was healthy in 1895, but the Chief Commissioner has ordered it to be inspected again by the Civil Surgeon during the current year.

Chengur.—This garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. No special action was necessary, as the manager had taken steps to improve the defects existing on the garden.

Nagadum.—The garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. The Chief Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, accepted the finding of the Civil Surgeon that the garden was unfit for labourers generally, and directed that it should be closed to all Act labourers.

Alyne.—This garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Act. No ground for action under section 132 was disclosed by the Civil Surgeon's report, but the Deputy Commissioner was requested to see that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations regarding the provision of a satisfactory water-supply and the necessity for increasing the labour force, were given effect to.

Dewan.—A committee was held on this garden in September 1895. The committee found that the garden was not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to see that steps are at once taken to give effect to the recommendation of the committee regarding the selection of a suitable class of coolies for the garden.

Unhealthy gardens in Sylhet.

50. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Sylhet district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act Population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
South Sylhet...	1. Kalighat ...	510	531	21	24	45	41·1	45·1	86·2
	2 Schindurkhan ...	395	411	13	29	42	32·9	70·5	103·4
	3. Rajghat ...	595	725	16	74	90	26·8	102·0	128·8
	4. Kajuricherra ...	592	679	20	25	45	33·7	36·8	70·5
	5. Gandicherra ...	324	370	20	12	32	61·7	32·4	94·1
	Total	2,416	2,716	90	164	254	37·2	60·3	97·5

Unhealthy on Act Population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
South Sylhet...	1. Kalighat ...	12	8	10	9	...	2	4	45
	2. Schindurkhan ...	5	...	11	3	5	4	14	42
	3. Rajghat ...	10	1	45	...	...	17	17	90
	4. Kajuricherra ...	6	2	17	4	1	...	15	45
	5. Gandicherra ...	13	3	8	2	2	...	4	32
	Total ...	46	14	91	18	8	23	54	254

Unhealthy on non-Act Population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Karimganj ...	6. Bhubirghat ...	630	695	61	79	140	96·8	113·6	210·4
	7. Piplagul ...	920	1,064	39	60	99	42·3	56·4	98·7
	8. Salgoi ...	687	662	85	19	104	123·7	28·7	152·4
	Total ...	2,237	2,421	185	158	343	82·6	65·2	147·8

Unhealthy on non-Act Population—(b) Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Karimganj ...	6. Bhubirghat ...	2	24	53	8	1	...	52	140
	7. Piplagul ...	2	3	28	18	3	...	45	99
	8. Salgoi ...	56	3	19	3	...	...	23	104
	Total ...	60	30	100	29	4	...	120	343

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The following action was taken in respect of the above unhealthy gardens:

(1) *Kalighat.*—A committee was held on this garden on the 24th February 1896. The unanimous finding of the committee was that the garden was not unfit for the residence of labourers generally, or of any particular class of labourers. The unhealthiness was ascribed partly to importations of inferior batches of coolies from the North-Western Provinces, and the Deputy Commissioner has been requested to warn the manager that he will be held responsible for any future importations of such coolies, and that if the mortality continues to be high, the garden will be closed to Act coolies either wholly or for particular classes. The garden was healthy in 1894.

(2) *Schindurkhan and* (5) *Gandicherra.*—The high mortality on these gardens also appears to have been due chiefly to the importation of bad batches of coolies from the North-Western Provinces, and the managers have received a warning similar to that given to the manager of Kalighat. Both gardens were healthy in 1894.

(3) *Rajghat.*—The Chief Commissioner has accepted the finding of the Civil Surgeon in respect of this garden, and has declared the garden unfit for the residence of newly-imported labourers from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The effect of this declaration is to prohibit future importations of such labourers under contract for the garden.

(4) *Kajuricherra.*—This garden was on the unhealthy list in 1884 and 1885, and in the years 1889 to 1891 inclusive. It has now again appeared on the unhealthy list, and the high mortality in 1895 appears to have been due to the importation of coolies of inferior physique, for which, under standing orders, the manager must be held responsible. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to warn the manager that if the garden appears on the unhealthy list in 1896, and the unhealthiness is again attributed to the importation of inferior coolies, the Chief Commissioner will probably be compelled to order it to be closed to Act labour altogether.

(6) *Bhubirghat,* (7) *Piplagul, and* (8) *Salgoi.*—These gardens were unhealthy on the non-Act population, and the Deputy Commissioner has been requested to put pressure on the managers to carry out the Civil Surgeon's recommendations without delay.

The following action was taken in 1895 in respect of the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1894, though not on the unhealthy list for 1895:

Barmacherra.—A committee was held on this garden on the 15th November 1895. The Chief Commissioner accepted the committee's report that the estate was not unfit for the residence of Act labourers.

Hatikhira.—A committee was held on this garden on the 4th September 1895. The Chief Commissioner acted on the finding of the majority of the committee, that the garden was unfit for the residence of labourers recruited from the North-Western Provinces and Behar, and ordered the garden to be closed to labourers from those Provinces.

Unhealthy gardens in Kámrúp.

51. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Kámrúp district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Sonapur	110	78	8	3	11	72·7	38·4	111·1
2. Mandakata	89	79	14	7	21	157·3	88·6	245·9
Total	199	157	22	10	32	110·5	63·7	174·2

Unhealthy on Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Sonapur	...	...	1	...	5	2	3	11
2. Mandakata	11	...	3	...	...	1	6	21
Total	11	...	4	...	5	3	9	32

There were no gardens unhealthy on non-Act population, or on Act and non-Act population taken together. The following action was taken on the unhealthy gardens :

(1) *Sonapur.*—No special action was considered necessary on this garden ; it was healthy in 1894.

(2) *Mandakata.*—This garden was healthy in 1894 ; in 1895 it suffered from an epidemic of cholera which, however, was not attributable to any neglect of sanitary precautions on the part of the management. The Deputy Commissioner has been requested to see that recommendations of the Civil Surgeon for the improvement of the lines and hospital arrangements, clearing of jungle, and the entertainment of a duly qualified medical officer, are carried out.

Unhealthy gardens in Darrang.

52. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Darrang district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy on Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Tezpur ...	1. Hanchara ...	332	360	23	9	32	69·2	25·0	94·2
	2 Nahorani ...	544	546	27	25	52	49·6	45·7	95·3
	3. Solabari-Malijan	211	210	5	11	16	23·6	52·3	75·9
	4. Ghoirali ...	216	230	7	10	17	32·4	43·4	75·8
	5. Kolony ...	324	318	13	10	23	40·1	31·4	71·5
	6. Dhendai ...	482	566	18	20	38	37·3	35·3	72·6
	7. Gellahating ...	208	209	8	11	19	38·4	52·6	91·0
	8. Borgong ...	239	227	12	10	22	50·2	44·0	94·2
	9. Majuligarh ...	426	467	12	26	38	28·1	55·7	83·8
	10. Diplonga ...	235	232	3	31	34	12·7	133·6	146·3
	11. Tarajuli ...	535	592	15	38	53	28·0	64·2	92·2
Mangaldai ...	12. Hatigarh ...	1,102	941	127	16	143	115·2	17·0	132·2
	13. Bhutiachang ...	272	286	27	7	34	99·3	24·4	123·7
	Total ...	5,126	5,184	297	224	521	57·9	43·2	101·1

Unhealthy on Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Tezpur ...	1. Hanchara ...	3	1	7	3	10	6	2	32
	2. Nahorani ...	4	1	6	1	20	8	12	52
	3. Solabari-Malijan ...	1	...	4	5	3	1	2	16
	4. Ghoirali ...	1	1	...	1	12	2	...	17
	5. Kolony ...	2	3	3	...	7	5	3	23
	6. Dhendai ...	...	4	...	6	9	6	13	38
	7. Gellahating ...	1	...	12	...	1	5	...	19
	8. Borgong ...	7	...	3	...	10	2	...	22
	9. Majuligarh ...	1	9	16	1	7	3	1	38
	10. Diplonga ...	2	...	3	...	24	2	3	34
	11. Tarajuli ...	7	2	23	3	8	2	8	53
Mangaldai	12. Hatigarh ...	100	...	21	1	6	8	7	143
	13. Bhutiachang ...	19	1	5	...	...	2	7	34
	Total	148	22	103	21	117	52	58	521

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Mangaldai ...	14. Rupital ...	154	149	10	1	11	64·9	6·7	71·6
	15. Kobira ...	163	106	14	4	18	85·8	37·7	123·5
	16. Tangani ...	101	94	12	...	12	118·8	...	118·8
	Total	418	349	36	5	41	85·6	14·3	99·9

Unhealthy on Non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Mangaldai ...	14. Rupital ...	2	...	4	4	...	1	...	11
	15. Kobira ...	3	...	7	4	...	1	3	18
	16. Tangani ...	9	1	...	...	2	...	...	12
	Total	14	1	11	8	2	2	3	41

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The following action was taken in respect of the above unhealthy gardens :

(1) *Hanchara.*—As ordered in the Provincial Immigration Report for 1894, this garden was specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon in November 1895 under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. On receipt of his report, the Commissioner was requested to warn the manager of the garden that he would be held responsible for the importation of inferior coolies, and that if the garden continued to show a high death-rate, it would be closed to Act labourers. It was again inspected on the 6th

May 1896 by the Civil Surgeon, who recorded a finding that the garden was unfit for the residence of labourers from Bengal Proper and Orissa. The Chief Commissioner has accepted this finding, and has directed that the garden shall be closed to labourers from those provinces.

(2) *Nahorani.*—This garden was specially inspected by the Civil Surgeon, who recorded a finding that it was unfit for the residence of North-Western Provinces labourers. The garden has, therefore, been declared to be unfit for the residence of labourers from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

(3) *Solabari-Malijan.*—The Chief Commissioner has accepted the recommendation made by the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, that the garden should be closed to North-Western Provinces and Oudh labourers, and has declared it to be unfit for the residence of labourers from those provinces. The Deputy Commissioner has been directed to give effect to these orders, and to insist on the erection of a proper hospital and the entertainment of a duly-qualified medical officer.

(4) *Ghoirali.*—As ordered in the Provincial Immigration Report for 1894, a committee was held on this garden on the 5th September 1895. The committee made certain recommendations, which have been carried out. The garden was again inspected by the Civil Surgeon in the current year, and in view of the improvements effected since the enquiry made by the committee, and the low death-rate for the first half-year of 1896, which is said to be the result of those improvements, no special action was considered necessary.

(5) *Kolony.*—This garden has not been unhealthy on Act population before. The sanitary arrangements on the garden seem to be good, and the Chief Commissioner has concurred in the Commissioner's opinion that no action is necessary.

(6) *Dhendai.*—A committee, held on the garden in September 1895, recorded a finding to the effect that the garden was not unfit for the residence of any class of labourers. The garden was again inspected, during the current year, by the Civil Surgeon, under section 130 of the Act, and he recorded a similar finding. As the figures for 1896 show some improvement, the Chief Commissioner has accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner that the garden should be given a further chance. The Commissioner has been requested to see that his suggestions regarding the medical officer are given effect to, and he has been asked to warn the manager that this is his last chance, and that if the garden appears on the unhealthy list for 1896, it will certainly be closed altogether to Act labour.

(7) *Gellahating.*—A committee was held on the garden in December 1895, and a finding was recorded to the effect that it was not necessary to close the garden to any particular class of labourers. It was subsequently specially inspected, under section 130 of the Act, by the Civil Surgeon, who was also of opinion that the garden was not unfit for the residence of any class of labourers. With the exception of the years 1886, 1891, and 1893, however, the garden has been unhealthy every year since 1884. No particular cause can be assigned for the continued unhealthiness, but the Chief Commissioner cannot allow a garden, which is so consistently unhealthy, the benefits of the Act, and he has accordingly declared it to be unfit for the residence of all Act labourers, and directed that it shall be wholly closed to such labour.

(8) *Borgong.*—The arrangements on this garden, which was healthy in 1893 and 1894, are good, and no special action was considered necessary.

(9) *Majuligarh.*—This garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Act. From his report, it appears that of the Act deaths which occurred on the garden in 1895 and 1896, 6 and 1, respectively, occurred among labourers from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The Commissioner has been directed to make further enquiries on the subject, and orders on the inspection report will be passed on receipt of his report.

(10) *Diplonga.*—The importation of coolies to this garden from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh was prohibited by a committee in 1894. The garden, nevertheless, appears to have gone on importing coolies under the Act from those provinces. By the finding of the committee the contracts of all North-Western Provinces labourers imported since the date of the sitting of the committee and of all such labourers then on the garden are void. The Commissioner has been requested to ask the Deputy Commissioner to visit the garden to give effect to the finding at once, and to examine the death register, to see how far the cancellation of these contracts affects the Act death-rate for 1895 and for 1896 up to date. The Chief Commissioner awaits the Deputy Commissioner's report before passing orders on the garden.

(11) *Tarajuli.*—The Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner in thinking that no special action is called for in respect of this garden, except to see that the hospital on the garden is completed at an early date.

(12) *Hatigarh and* (13) *Bhutiachang.*—The excessive mortality on these gardens was due to cholera and the garden authorities do not appear to be to blame. The Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner in thinking that no special action is called for in respect of these gardens, which appear for the first time on the unhealthy list.

(14) *Rupital.*—This garden was unhealthy on Non-Act population, and most of the deaths occurred amongst children. No special action was considered necessary.

(15) *Kobira.*—The Civil Surgeon's report on the garden was so incomplete that it was impossible to take any action on it. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner that the Civil Surgeon should inspect the garden again.

(16) *Tangani.*—This garden was unhealthy on non-Act population only. The Commissioner has been requested to ask the Deputy Commissioner to communicate to the manager of the garden the Civil Surgeon's recommendation regarding the sinking of a Norton's tube-well and the raising of the coolies' houses on plinths.

The following action was taken in 1895 in respect of the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1894, though not on the unhealthy list for 1895:

Sonajuli.—A committee was held on the garden on the 4th September 1895. The Chief Commissioner accepted the finding of the committee that the garden was not unfit for the residence of labourers generally, or of any class of labourers.

Sadharughop.—A committee was held on this garden in December 1895. The unanimous finding of the committee was that the garden was fit for the residence of all classes of labourers.

Unhealthy gardens in Nowgong.

53. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Nowgong district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
1. Kulikusi	34	77	8	8	16	95·2	103·8	199·0
2. Barpani	150	172	6	10	16	40·0	58·1	98·1
3. Udmari	81	85	10	7	17	123·4	82·3	205·7
4. Rangamati	210	297	17	...	17	80·9	...	80·9
5. Old Salona	126	103	13	15	28	103·1	145·6	248·7
Total	651	734	54	40	94	82·9	54·4	137·3

Unhealthy on Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
1. Kulikusi	6	...	1	4	1	...	4	16
2. Barpani	...	...	3	4	1	2	6	16
3. Udmari	...	...	1	13	1	...	2	17
4. Rangamati	2	...	1	13	...	...	1	17
5. Old Salona	1	...	...	24	...	...	3	28
Total	9	...	6	58	3	2	16	94

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
	First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
6. Rengbeng	373	283	12	12	24	32·1	42·4	74·5
7. Balijuri	132	122	4	7	11	30·3	57·3	87·6
8. Sagmutia	164	123	7	9	16	42·6	73·1	115·7
Total	669	528	23	28	51	34·3	53·0	87·3

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
6. Rengbeng	1	...	...	23	...	...	...	24
7. Balijuri	...	...	3	5	...	...	3	11
8. Sagmutia	...	...	3	6	...	2	5	16
Total	1	...	6	34	...	2	8	51

There were no gardens unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together.

The Nowgong district has suffered for some years past from *kála-azár*. For some time the tea-garden population escaped, but the disease has now established a strong foothold in various gardens, and is responsible for their appearance on the unhealthy list. The managers of the gardens concerned appear to have adopted all possible means of combating the disease, but with very little success. The last reports received, however, tend to show that the disease is now gradually disappearing.

The following paragraphs describe the action taken in respect of the unhealthy gardens in the district:

(1) *Kulikusi.*—This garden has been unhealthy every year but one for the last six years, but has not always appeared on the unhealthy list, because, although the percentage of deaths was high, the total number of deaths amongst Act labourers was less than ten. From the fact that all the deaths occurred among coolies of less than three years' standing, it appears that only new coolies are placed under Act-I contracts. The Chief Commissioner cannot allow the garden to go on importing coolies under the Act, to be exposed to the risk of excessive mortality, and he has, therefore, declared the estate to be unfit for the residence of new coolies, and directed it to be closed to future importations under Act I of 1882.

(2) *Barpani.*—This garden appears on the unhealthy list for the first time since 1885. The Civil Surgeon has been directed to inspect the garden again under section 130 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act before the close of the current year, and report whether certain deaths, supposed to be due to *kála-azár*, were really attributable to this disease; he will also ascertain whether certain recommendations made by him at his last inspection have been carried out.

(3) *Udmari.*—The Chief Commissioner has approved the suggestion made by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, that the results of the first half-year of 1896 should be awaited before deciding what further action should be taken with regard to this

garden. If the mortality continues to be excessive, the garden will again be inspected under section 130 of the Act.

(4) *Rangamati.*—A committee was held on this garden in December 1895. The committee was unanimously of opinion that the estate was not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers. The garden was again inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 of the Act in March 1896. The Commissioner, in forwarding the Civil Surgeon's report, recommended that the garden should not be closed at present, and as the figures for 1896 show signs of a diminishing rate of mortality, Sir William Ward has decided to take no immediate action. The Civil Surgeon will again inspect the garden before the close of the year, and the Chief Commissioner will then decide what measures are necessary.

(5) *Old Salona.*—Last year, the Commissioner recommended the closing of this garden to newly imported labour, but it was eventually decided to give the garden another chance, the manager undertaking not to place any coolies of under one year's residence in Assam on the garden. The results of 1895, however, show that the excessive mortality still continues, and is, in fact, higher than ever. In view of the excessive mortality on this garden for a period of four successive years, the Chief Commissioner has declared, under section 132 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, that the garden is unfit for the residence of labourers generally.

(6) *Rengbeng.*—This garden is worked by non-Act labour, and was unhealthy on the non-Act population. It has not appeared on the unhealthy list before. The Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner in thinking that no action is necessary beyond seeing that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations as to the clearing of jungle and the improvement of the drainage of the lines are carried out.

(7) *Balijuri.*—No action is necessary in regard to this garden, which was unhealthy on the non-Act population only, beyond seeing that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations regarding the construction of a masonry well and the entertainment of a qualified medical officer are given effect to.

(8) *Sagmutia.*—The manager of this garden was informed last year that if he did not avail himself of the facilities offered for the medical examination in the district of recruitment or at Dhubri, of all labourers imported for his estate with a view to ascertaining their fitness to labour on a tea estate in the labour districts, the Chief Commissioner would probably have to order an enquiry, with a view to determine whether the estate should not be closed altogether to Act labourers. It does not appear from the Civil Surgeon's report whether coolies are now medically examined before importation, but the garden was healthy on Act population in 1895. It was, however, unhealthy on non-Act population, and it requires, therefore, to be carefully watched. If the figures for the first half-year of 1896 show excessive mortality, the garden will be inspected again under section 130 of the Act.

The following action was taken in 1895 in respect of the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1894, but healthy in 1895:

Borghat.—A committee was held on the garden on the 21st December 1895. The unanimous finding of the committee was that the garden is not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers.

New Salona.—A committee was ordered to be held on this garden if the mortality during the first half-year of 1895 was excessive. A committee was held on the 21st December 1895, but it need not have been if, as the committee's proceedings stated, the percentage of mortality for the first half-year of 1895 was satisfactory. The finding of the Committee was that the garden was not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers.

54. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Sibságar district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred :

Unhealthy gardens in Sibságar.

Unhealthy on Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	1. Thirwalbari ...	147	108	5	5	10	34·0	46·2	80·2
Jorhát ...	2. Dessoi ...	163	190	6	9	15	36·8	47·3	84·1
	3. Moriani ...	729	649	42	15	57	57·6	23·1	80·7
	4. Bandersulia ...	109	132	3	8	11	27·5	60·6	88·1
Golághát ...	5. Hatikuli ...	258	216	11	6	17	42·6	27·7	70·3
	6. Chotajan ...	85	114	...	17	17	...	149·1	149·1
	Total ...	1,491	1,409	67	60	127	44·9	42·5	87·4

Unhealthy on Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	1. Thirwalbari ...	3	2	2	...	...	...	3	10
Jorhát	2. Dessoi	...	1	5	1	1	...	7	15
	3. Moriani	16	...	29	...	1	...	11	57
	4. Bandersulia ...	...	...	7	...	...	...	4	11
Golághát ...	5. Hatikuli ...	1	1	7	6	...	...	2	17
	6. Chotajan ...	...	5	6	1	...	...	5	17
	Total	20	9	56	8	2	...	32	127

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	7. Baruasali ...	71	72	16	...	16	225·3	...	225·3

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *ancylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr	7. Baruasali	...	...	14	...	...	...	2	16

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Jorhát ...	8. Goriahabi ...	389	398	22	12	34	56·5	30·1	86·6
Golághát ...	9. Dhansiri ...	463	456	19	24	43	41·0	52·6	93·6
	Total	852	854	41	36	77	48·1	42·1	90·2

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of garden.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *ancylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Jorhát	8. Goriahabi ...	1	...	16	...	...	...	17	34
Golághát	9. Dhansiri ...	1	4	19	3	5	...	11	43
	Total	2	4	35	3	5	...	28	77

The following action was taken in respect of the unhealthy gardens in this district :

(1) *Thirwalbari.*—The employer has carried out the recommendations made at previous inspections, and, in view of the sanitary improvements effected, the Chief Commissioner agrees with the Commissioner in thinking that no action is necessary at present.

(2) *Dessoi.*—The employer has carried out the recommendations made at previous inspections regarding the improvement of the drinking water-supply and the entertainment of a qualified native doctor. There does not appear to be any neglect of sanitary precautions on the part of the management, and the Chief Commissioner concurs with the Commissioner in thinking that no further action is necessary.

(3) *Moriani.*—On the recommendation of the Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner has decided to give the garden a further chance. The recommendations of the Civil Surgeon regarding the removal of the old lines to a better site, improvement of the water-supply, completion of the proposed new hospital building, and the erection of a quarantine or segregation camp should be carried out at once. The Civil Surgeon will inspect the garden again before the close of the current year. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts has been requested to warn the manager of the garden that a third year of unhealthiness will compel the Chief Commissioner to close the garden to Act labour.

(4) *Bandarsulia.*—This garden has been unhealthy for the last three years, and the excessive mortality appears to be due, partly to the importation of an inferior class of coolies, and partly to a defective water-supply. The Commissioner recommends that the result of the promised improvements in the water-supply should be awaited before further steps are taken. The Chief Commissioner has accepted the Commissioner's recommendation, but that officer has been requested to warn the manager that this is the last chance he will be given.

(5) *Hatikuli.*—This garden has a bad record for unhealthiness, and a committee was held in November 1895. The committee found that the garden was not unfit for the residence of labourers, but the finding was conditional on certain improvements being effected. The most important of their recommendations, *viz.*, certain measures connected with the improvement of the water-supply, was found by the Civil Surgeon to have been ignored by the garden authorities, but the Chief Commissioner, on the Commissioner's recommendation, has decided to give the garden a further chance. The Civil Surgeon has been directed to inspect the garden again before the close of the current year, and the Commissioner hasbeen requested to warn the manager that the garden will be closed to all Act labour if the recommendations of the committee regarding the improvement of the water-supply are not in the meantime carried out.

(6) *Chotajan.*—The Civil Surgeon's report shows that the water-supply is defective, that the lines are not good, that wages are low, and that desertions are excessive. This, however, is the garden's first appearance on the unhealthy list. The Commissioner has been requested to draw the attention of the manager of the garden to the defects noticed by the Civil Surgeon, and to warn him that a further inspection under section 130 of the Act will be held towards the end of the current year, and that unless the Civil Surgeon is then able to report that there has been an improvement in all respects, and that all his recommendations have been carried out, the Chief Commissioner will have to consider whether the garden should not be entirely closed to Act labour.

(7) *Baruasali.*—This estate was unhealthy on non-Act population. The manager has been directed to entertain a duly qualified medical officer. The Civil Surgeon will inspect the garden again before the close of the current year.

(8) *Gariahabi.*—This garden appears to have been brought on to the unhealthy list by the importation of an inferior class of coolies. The Commissioner has been requested to warn the manager that if he imports any more coolies of inferior physique, and the garden again appears on the unhealthy list in consequence, it will be closed altogether to Act labour.

(9) *Dhansiri.*—A committee was held on this garden in November 1895. The committee found that the garden was unfit for the residence of new immigrants (*a*) from the North-Western Provinces, Behar, Madras, and the Central Provinces, and (*b*) from Bengal and Chota Nagpur, belonging to other than certain specified castes. The finding was given effect to, and the garden closed to new importations of coolies, except those belonging to the castes specified. The garden has been unhealthy for the past three years, but the arrangements for the coolies' welfare appear to be good, and the Chief Commissioner has accepted the Commissioner's recommendation to allow another year's time, in order to judge of the effect of the action taken in accordance with the recommendations of the committee.

The following action was also taken in 1895 in respect of the gardens mentioned below, the first two of which were unhealthy in 1894 and the third in 1893 ;

Gabruparbat.—A committee held on this garden on the 19th October 1895 found that neither the garden as a whole, nor any part of it, was unfit for the residence of Act labourers generally or of any particular class of Act labourers. The unhealthiness was due to an outbreak of "Naga sores."

Maduri.—A committee was held on this garden in May 1895. The unanimous finding of the committee was that the estate was unfit for the residence of labourers, and the garden, as stated in the Immigration Report for 1894, was closed to Act labour.

Kheremia—A committee was held on this garden on the 26th July 1895. The finding of the committee was that it was not unfit for the residence of any class of labourers.

Unhealthy gardens in Lakhimpur.

55. The following statements give particulars regarding the unhealthy gardens in the Lakhimpur district, and show the causes of the deaths which occurred:

Unhealthy on Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of estate.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ... North Lakhimpur.	1. Barbarua ...	143	131	5	14	19	34·9	106·8	141·7
	2. Nahartoli ...	227	258	4	18	22	17·6	69·7	87·3
	3. Makum ...	1,413	1,503	56	51	107	39·6	33·9	73·5
	4. Tikak (coal mine) ...	146	108	15	4	19	102·7	37·0	139·7
	5. Sillonibari ...	517	590	21	31	52	40·6	52·5	93·1
	Total ...	2,446	2,590	101	118	219	41·3	45·5	86·8

Unhealthy on Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act).

Subdivision.	Name of estate.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ... North Lakhimpur.	1. Barbarua ...	10	1	2	...	4	...	2	19
	2. Nahartoli ...	...	5	6	2	6	...	3	22
	3. Makum ...	25	8	48	8	1	2	15	107
	4. Tikak (coal mine) ...	...	1	14	2	...	2	...	19
	5. Sillonibari ...	20	...	3	2	8	9	10	52
	Total ...	55	15	73	14	19	13	30	219

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of estate.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr. ...	6. Meklanadi saw-mills...	73	87	9	1	10	123·2	11·5	134·7
	7. Rungmulla ...	155	205	14	2	16	90·3	9·7	100·0
	8. Ledo (coal mine) ...	981	1,354	22	84	106	22·4	62·0	84·4
	Total ...	1,209	1,646	45	87	132	37·2	52·8	90·0

Unhealthy on non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of estate.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	6. Meklanadi saw-mills..	7	...	1	...	...	...	2	10
	7. Rungmulla ...	11	...	2	2	...	...	1	16
	8. Ledo (coal mine) ...	1	4	23	3	...	8	67	106
	Total ...	19	4	26	5	...	8	70	132

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population taken together—(a) Statistics of Mortality.

Subdivision.	Name of estate.	Mean strength.		Deaths.			Ratio per mille.		
		First half-year.	Second half-year.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Total.	First half-year.	Second half-year.	Annual.
Sadr ...	9. Margherita head-quarters ...	735	1,231	13	72	85	17·6	58·4	76·0

Unhealthy on Act and non-Act population—(b) Causes of Deaths (Act and non-Act).

Subdivision.	Name of estate.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Malarious fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis.*	Respiratory diseases.	Other causes.	Total.
Sadr ...	9. Margherita head-quarters ...	34	4	20	4	1	2	20	85

The following action has been taken in this district:

(1) *Barbarua.*—The Chief Commissioner has accepted the finding recorded by the Civil Surgeon that the garden is not unfit for the residence of labourers generally or of any particular class of labourers. The Commissioner has been requested to see that the Civil Surgeon's recommendations regarding the erection of pumps for the well and the building of a latrine are carried out.

(2) *Nahartoli.*—The unhealthiness on this garden appears to have been due to some extent to bad management by a previous manager. In view of the various improvements effected by the new manager, the Chief Commissioner has accepted the opinion of the Commissioner that no action is necessary at present.

(3) *Makum* and (5) *Sillonibari.*—The Civil Surgeon's reports on these gardens were scanty and inconclusive. The mortality, however, appears to have been partly due to injudicious recruitment. The managers have been warned of their responsibility for the class of labourers they import, and if the mortality during the first half-year of 1896 is excessive, the gardens will again be inspected under section 130 of the Act.

(4) *Tikak.*—A committee was held on this coal-mine in December 1895. The Commissioner has been requested to give effect to the unanimous finding of the committee, that the Tikak estate is unfit for the residence of labourers under Act I of 1882.

(6) *Meklanadi Saw-mills* and (7) *Rungmulla.*—These estates were unhealthy on non-Act population. No special action was considered necessary.

(8) *Ledo.*—A committee was held on this coal-mine in December 1895. The Chief Commissioner accepted the opinion of the majority of the committee that the

estate is unfit for the residence of labourers from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Behar.

(9) *Margherita.*—A committee was held on this estate in December 1895. In the opinion of the committee, the unhealthiness was due to the recruitment of coolies of unsuitable caste and physique, and the estate was declared fit for the residence of labourers. The Commissioner has, however, been requested to warn the Agent and General Manager of the Assam Railways and Trading Company that the importation of inferior classes of coolies cannot be accepted as an excuse for a high death-rate.

The following action was also taken in 1895 in respect of the gardens mentioned below, which were unhealthy in 1894:

Chalkhoa.—As ordered in the Provincial Immigration Report for 1894, this garden was again inspected by the Civil Surgeon, but, in view of the improvement in the death-rate, no special action was considered necessary.

Powai.—This garden was inspected by the Civil Surgeon, and a committee was ordered to be held on it if it again appeared on the unhealthy list. The garden, however, was healthy in 1895.

General conclusions regarding the working of the sections relating to unhealthy gardens.

56. The necessity for strengthening the hands of the Administration so as to enable prompt action to be taken against unhealthy gardens was recognised in the discussions which preceded the passing of Act VII of 1893, and sections 128-133 were amended in order to effect this object. Under section 128, as it originally stood, the District Magistrate was the only authority who could summon a committee on an unhealthy garden, and that only on the written report of an Inspector, certifying that the garden was unfit for the residence of labourers. The revised Act gives power to the Magistrate to summon such a committee of his own motion, and also empowers the Local Administration, in certain cases, to order the Magistrate to convene a committee. The Local Administration has further been empowered to call for the proceedings of a committee, and if the finding of the committee is not unanimous, to record upon such proceedings any finding which the committee was competent to record. Under the old Act, the Local Administration was the only authority which could direct a medical inspection by the District Medical Officer, with a view to coercive action; as now amended, section 130 gives to the Magistrate the same powers as to the Local Administration in respect of ordering a medical inspection when the mortality has exceeded 7 per cent. Final orders under section 132 must, however, be passed by the Local Administration in all cases.

The sections dealing with unhealthy gardens, as amended in 1893, have now been in force for nearly three years, and the Chief Commissioner thinks it will be convenient to give here some account of the results of their working. The following tables show separately the results of the committees held, and special medical inspections made under section 130 of the Act, in the years 1883—1892 and in the years 1893—1895:

Year.	Number of committees held.	Number of gardens closed wholly			Number of gardens closed partly			Total of columns 5 and 8.
		By committee.	After special inspection under section 130.	Total.	By committee.	After special inspection under section 130.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1883	....	...	...	....	...	...	...	...
1884	21	1	...	1	4	...	4	5
1885	7	...	...	....	2	...	2	2
1886	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1887	7	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
1888	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
1889	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
1890	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1891	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1892	5	...	...	...	2	...	2	2
Total 1883—1892 ...	55	1	...	1	11	...	11	12

Year.	Number of committees held.	Number of gardens closed wholly			Number of gardens closed partly			Total of columns 5 and 8.
		By committee.	After special inspection under section 130.	Total.	By committee.	After special inspection under section 130.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1893	20	...	...	...	4	...	4	4
1894	27	1	1	2	10	6	16	18
1895	21	2	6	8	3	6	9	17
Total	68	3	7	10	17	12	29	39

Thus, in the ten years 1883—1892, 55 committees were held, resulting in the absolute closure of only one garden and the partial closure of ten gardens. During the same period, only one special inspection was made under section 130. Previous to the passing of Act VII of 1893, inspections under section 130 were very rare, for, as explained in paragraph 31 of letter No. 3620J., dated the 12th August 1892, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the Government of India, section 132 as it then stood gave no power to the Administration to take action with a view to closing a garden, unless it could be shown (*a*) that the unhealthiness was due to the want, on the part of the garden authorities, of due care or precaution, or to failure to adopt proper and available sanitary measures, and (*b*) that the estate was *thereby* rendered unfit for the residence of labourers. Cases, however, in which employers neglected to adopt all possible means of keeping down the mortality on their estates, and in which it could be proved that the mortality was due to this neglect, were so rare that the section remained inoperative. By Act VII of 1893, the section was amended so as to place an enquiry under section 130 on the same footing in this respect as a committee under section 128, and a garden inspected by the Civil Surgeon under section 130 can now be closed if it is found to be unfit for the residence of labourers, whatever may be the reasons for the unfitness. Accordingly, after the passing of Act VII of 1893, orders were issued directing that all gardens appearing on the unhealthy list should be inspected by the Civil Surgeon immediately after the close of the year, and the Chief Commissioner is thus in a position to deal adequately with an unhealthy garden at the earliest possible moment after it has been ascertained to be unhealthy. The second table given above shows that, during the three years 1893—1895, no less than 68 committees have been held, as compared with only 55 in the previous ten years. Three gardens have been wholly, and seventeen gardens partially, closed in consequence of the findings of committees, and seven gardens have been wholly, and twelve gardens partially, closed under section 132 of the Act, after inspection by the Civil Surgeon under section 130. A comparison of the figures given in the statements contained in this paragraph with those given in the statements in paragraph 48 above shows that the increase in the number of gardens closed wholly or partly to Act labour is due, not, as might at first sight be supposed, to an increase in the number of unhealthy gardens, but solely to the more stringent action which is now taken by this Administration in cases where gardens are found to be unhealthy. As stated in paragraph 48, the system of classifying gardens as healthy and unhealthy was changed in 1889; adopting, however, for the purpose of comparison, the system of classification followed previous to 1889, the average annual number of unhealthy gardens during the ten years 1883—92 was 56, while during the three years 1893—95, the corresponding average was only 15. Yet the average number of cases in which coercive measures were taken was only 1·2 per annum during the former period, against 13 per annum in the triennium which has just come to a close.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION.

Number of gardens submitting returns and liable to inspection.

57. There were 824 gardens borne on the inspection register at the end of the year, against 826 in 1894; the number submitting returns (returns are required from all gardens on which any Act coolies, or more than 50 other persons, are employed) decreased from 747 to 743. The latter figures, however, include 3 gardens with less than 50 persons, and which, therefore, need not have submitted returns. The returns appear to have been submitted with fair punctuality in all districts.

Classification of gardens according to the coolies employed, and inspection of Act and non-Act gardens.

58. The following statement shows the number of gardens classified, district by district, according to the classes of labourers employed, the number which submitted returns, and the number which were inspected during the year:

	Cachar.					Sylhet.					Kámrúp.					Darrang.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	142	52	1	11	206	83	46	3	...	132	9	9	...	11	29	75	6	1	3	85
„ sending returns 50 and 51 ...	142	52	1	...	195	83	46	1	...	130	9	9	...	...	18	75	6	...	...	81
„ inspected once ...	137	52	1	...	190	75	45	1	...	121	8	5	...	...	13	66	6	...	...	72
„ „ twice ...	5	...	...	...	5	8	1	...	...	9	1	4	...	...	5	9	...	...	...	9
„ „ thrice ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total number inspected in 1895 ...	142	52	1	...	195	83	46	1	...	130	9	9	...	...	18	75	6	...	...	81
„ „ „ in 1894 ...	143	51	...	...	194	79	43	1	...	123	7	3	...	...	10	72	6	...	...	78

	Nowgong.					Sibságar.					Lakhimpur.					Total.				
	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.	Employing Act coolies.	Non-Act.		No coolies on estate.	Total.
		Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.				Over 50.	Under 50.		
Number of gardens	32	9	...	13	54	142	10	6	19	177	122	3	1	15	141	605	135	12	72	824
„ sending returns 50 and 51 ...	32	9	...	...	41	142	10	...	...	152	122	3	1	...	126	605	135	3	...	743
„ inspected once ...	25	8	...	...	33	113	10	...	...	123	110	3	1	...	114	534	129	3	...	666
„ „ twice ...	4	...	...	...	4	27	...	...	...	27	9	...	...	...	9	63	5	...	...	68
„ „ thrice ...	3	1	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	6
Total number inspected in 1895 ...	32	9	...	...	41	142	10	...	...	152	119	3	1	...	123	602	135	3	...	740
„ „ „ in 1894 ...	37	6	...	...	43	142	10	...	...	152	124	4	1	...	129	604	123	2	...	729

The statement shows that, of the 740 gardens liable to inspection, 737 were nspected during the year. Three gardens not liable to inspection were also inspected. The three gardens which remained uninspected were in the Lakhimpur district, and the Deputy Commissioner reports that they were inspected immediately after the close of the year. While it is satisfactory that in all the other districts all gardens liable to inspection were actually inspected, the Chief Commissioner regrets to notice that no improvement has taken place in the number of second and third inspections. Only 74 gardens were inspected more than once (68 twice, 6 three times), as compared with 76 in 1894 (62 twice, 14 three times). As there were 75 gardens on the unhealthy list for 1893, and 86 on that for 1894, of which 61 in each year were unhealthy on the Act population alone, the number of second and third inspections reported seems at first sight to be very inadequate. It is, however, very doubtful whether the figures given in the statement really represent all the visits of inspection paid during the year; in one district at least it is gathered from the Deputy Commissioner's remarks that only those inspections in which the whole of the ordinary formal procedure was gone through have been shown in the statement, and it is almost certain that the same course has been adopted in other districts also. This procedure is opposed to the orders on the subject of inspections which were issued in the Chief Commissioner's Circular No. 45R., dated the 6th December 1894, and which were summarised in paragraph 58 of last year's report. The statement in this paragraph should contain figures relating not only to formal first inspections of healthy gardens, and to first and subsequent inspections of unhealthy gardens, but also to visits paid to gardens for special purposes, such as the verification of contracts, and the attention of Deputy Commissioners will again be drawn to this point. At the same time, even if the figures showing second and third inspections relate only to visits paid to second class and unhealthy gardens, it must still be admitted that they are by no means satisfactory, and the Chief Commissioner must again impress on inspecting officers the necessity for more frequent inspections of such gardens. The present unsatisfactory results seem to be due largely to the practice which obtains, in the Surma Valley districts at least, of postponing the greater part of garden inspection work until the last two or three months of the year, a practice which makes it impossible to carry on very many second and third inspections. Apart from this objection to deferring inspections until near the end of the year, there is the danger that, where this is done, some gardens will remain uninspected altogether. Again, though the cold weather is the most agreeable time for inspecting officers to carry out their inspections, the rains are the best time for forming an opinion regarding the real state of a tea garden and the conditions under which the labourers on it actually live. Lastly, District Officers have their ordinary touring to carry out during the cold-weather months, and the inspection of a large number of gardens at this season of the year must seriously interfere with other work. The Chief Commissioner therefore, directs that the rains shall in future be considered the proper time for carrying out the bulk of the garden inspection work of a district. These orders do not, of course, refer to special inspections by Civil Surgeons, nor is it intended to lay down an absolutely hard and fast rule for ordinary inspections. There may be gardens which, from their situation, or from the existence of special circumstances, it may be impossible or inconvenient to inspect during the rains. In regard to individual gardens, Deputy Commissioners will use their discretion as to the time when inspection visits should be paid, and all that the Chief Commissioner desires to do is to lay down the general principle that, as far as possible, all gardens should be inspected during the rainy season.

The following table shows the number of gardens inspected, respectively, by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Civil Surgeons, and other inspecting agency :

District.	Deputy Commissioners.		Assistant Commissioners.		Civil Surgeons.		Other inspecting agency.	
	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.	1894.	1895.
Cachar ...	60	56	71	79	35	30	28	30
Sylhet ...	9	19	101	85	3	9	15	26
Kámrúp ...	7	14	...	...	3	4	...	...
Darrang ...	25	12	28	27	29	49	...	7
Nowgong ...	24	31	10	...	18	22	...	...
Sibságar ...	23	22	40	71	23	64	78	27
Lakhimpur ...	35	34	39	46	52	13	41	30

All classes of inspecting officers appear to have taken a fair share of the work except, perhaps, in Darrang, where the Deputy Commissioner inspected only 12 gardens, a number hardly sufficient when the circumstances of the Darrang district are considered. The Civil Surgeon of that district, in addition to inspecting the 9 unhealthy gardens in that district, inspected the whole of the 18 second-class gardens, and also 22 first-class or healthy gardens. The standing orders on the subject lay down that second-class gardens should not be inspected by a Civil Surgeon except at the special request of the Deputy Commissioner of the district, and that healthy gardens should only be inspected by him in the case of an outbreak of serious epidemic disease, and then only at the special request of the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner's explanation as to why these orders were departed from is not satisfactory, but this matter is under separate consideration.

CHAPTER VII.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM GENERALLY.

Relations between employers and labourers.

59. The relations between employers and labourers continued to be generally satisfactory during the year. As usual, there were a few cases of friction in some of the districts, but they were all of a petty nature, and do not call for notice in this report. Serious disputes between employers and labourers are happily very rare, and are yearly becoming rarer. During the past three years (1893—95), there have been only two cases of ill-treatment of labourers by employers of sufficient importance to merit notice in the annual report. Both cases occurred in 1893, and were described in paragraph 61 of the report for that year. Serious insubordination by labourers has also been conspicuously rare during these three years. In a large industry like the tea industry, in which so many thousands of persons are engaged, there must inevitably arise occasional differences and disputes between employers and employed. The rarity of their occurrence in Assam, and the ease with which, when they do occur, they are settled, affords a very striking example of the general harmony of the relations existing between the planters and their coolies.

Relations between the garden population and the villagers.

60. All the district reports state that the relations between the garden population and the inhabitants of the surrounding villages continued to be satisfactory.

General condition of the labourers.

61. Nothing occurred during the year to necessitate any detailed comment on the general condition of the labourers. The subject was exhaustively dealt with in paragraph 31 of last year's report, and has been referred to in paragraph 31 above. It will suffice here to notice that the proportion borne by the adult labour force to the total acreage under tea, which increased very considerably between 1881 and 1894, but which declined slightly in the

latter year, again showed a considerable advance, as will be seen from the following figures :

	Area under tea cultivation. Acres.	Total adult labour force (annual mean), Act and non-Act.
1882	178,851	131,405
1883	189,453	153,739
1884	189,852	177,622
1885	197,510	188,262
1886	203,993	192,076
1887	211,079	203,023
1888	216,676	219,861
1889	227,249	241,297
1890	231,038	250,113
1891	241,823	265,315
1892	247,192	283,819
1893	254,126	302,558
1894	268,796	310,767
1895	276,014	334,298

In 1881, there were only 78 adult persons to every 100 acres of tea ; in 1895, there were 121. This increase in the average number of souls per acre is very satisfactory for the reasons stated in paragraph 155 of the Special Report submitted in 1890 ; it is, however, due partly to the more thorough system of cultivation now in vogue, which makes the maintenance of a larger labour force a matter of absolute necessity.

Settlement of time-expired labourers on the land.

62. The following figures show the amount of land held direct under Government by time-expired immigrant coolies in the various districts in the province :

District.	1894. Acres.	1895. Acres.
Cachar	10,438	11,122
Sylhet	239*	386
Kámrúp	94	130
Darrang	9,571*	11,319
Nowgong	2,800	3,831
Sibságar	13,131	14,240
Lakhimpur	10,675	12,590
Total	46,948	53,618

* Revised figures.

As explained in previous years, these figures do not by any means represent the whole of the land held or cultivated by time-expired immigrants, but only the area held direct from Government. It is the custom in some districts for tea-garden coolies to rent lands from the neighbouring villagers who have more than they require for their own requirements, or who, for the sake of the difference between the Government revenue and the rent obtained from the coolies, allow coolies to cultivate their land in the neighbourhood of gardens, and take up land elsewhere for their own cultivation. The figures, too, are less than they should be, owing to the fact that many coolies who have purchased land, and are really direct Government tenants, do not appear as such, because they have neglected to apply for mutation of names. Lastly, in many cases, they settle on land taken up by planters, either under the special rules for the lease of

waste lands or on ordinary *patta*. The figures, however, incomplete as they are, show that year by year the area held by time-expired immigrants grows larger and larger. Thus, in 1882 the area reported to be so held was only 4,024 acres; in 1887 it had risen to 16,414 acres, in 1888 to 25,315 acres, and in 1891 to 36,467 acres, while last year it amounted to no less than 53,618 acres. The increase over the figures of 1894 was common to all districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet reports that the figures for his district are quite untrustworthy; owing to the greater portion of the district being permanently settled, it is impossible to ascertain the exact area cultivated by time-expired immigrant coolies. The Deputy Commissioner Cachar, writes:—

> Six hundred and eighty-four acres were newly settled with 39 coolies during the year 1895. Besides the above, a number of time-expired coolies have settled in *mirásdári* and garden land, of the details of which I have no record. The majority of the gardens allow their coolies to cultivate bits of garden land, and in many cases these people gradually cease to work for the garden, except on special occasions.

From information which he has received from other sources, the Chief Commissioner has reason to believe that the settlement as *raiyats* of time-expired coolies in the Cachar district is proceeding at a specially rapid rate, and he has no doubt that when the results of the cadastral survey now in progress are known, the figures hitherto reported will be found to be far short of the truth.

The practice referred to by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, of allowing coolies to plant rice on portions of the land held by the garden is common all over the province. Most large estates contain within their boundaries areas which are suitable for rice cultivation and are unsuitable for tea. Planters, as a rule, encourage their coolies to plant rice on such land, as, by so doing, they increase the local food-supply and attach the labour force to the garden. Cases are not unknown in which, where there is no land suitable for rice cultivation on an estate, the planter has taken up land on ordinary lease, in order to provide land for such of his old coolies as may wish to cultivate rice in addition to working on the garden.

Time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.

63. The following statement gives details of time-expired garden coolies treated in Government dispensaries in the several districts of the province:

District.	Number of time-expired coolies treated in dispensaries.	Nature of diseases.							Number of days treated.	Average period of detention, in days.
		Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Fever.	Anæmia of coolies or *anchylostomiasis*.	Other causes.	Total.		
Cachar	294	...	26	47	44	88	89	294	7,879	26·7
Sylhet	188	2	41	19	22	8	96	188	3,229	17·1
Kámrúp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang	116	...	3	14	11	42	46	116	2,216	19·1
Nowgong	28	...	1	1	3	4	19	28	1,030	36·7
Sibságar	221	1	19	39	27	12	123	221	2,643	11·9
Lakhimpur	41	...	5	4	4	...	28	41	613	15·1
Total of 1895	888	3	95	124	111	154	401	888	17,610	19·8
Total of 1894	810	6	112	105	113	150	324	810	16,554	20·4

The increase over the figures for 1894 is not large when the large increase in the number of new immigrants is taken into consideration.

64. The statement below shows the receipts and disbursements of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Assam during the year 1895-96:

Receipts. Heads.	Assam figures. Rs. a. p.	Bengal figures. Rs. a. p.	Total. Rs. a. p.
Medical	...	...	...
Contractors' license fees under section 13 ...	3,466 0 0	300 0 0	3,766 0 0
Recruiters' license fees under section 24 ...	...	136 0 0	136 0 0
Registration fees under sections 35 and 68 ...	...	20,098 2 0	20,098 2 0
Fees for license of inland steamers and native boats under section 90	...	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0
Rates under section 109	58,573 11 0	...	58,573 11 0
Fees for use of debarkation depôts	4,469 1 3	...	4,469 1 3
„ labour contract under sections 112 and 112A	8,776 0 0	...	8,776 0 0
Medical examination fees	2 0 0	...	2 0 0
Recoveries for sick coolies treated in hospitals ...	317 4 6	...	317 4 6
Fines and miscellaneous	981 1 2	...	981 1 2
Diet, etc., charges recovered	2,362 9 3	...	2,362 9 3
Grand total	78,947 11 2	21,734 2 0	1,00,681 13 2

Expenditure. Heads.	Assam figures. Rs. a. p.	Bengal figures. Rs. a. p.	Total. Rs. a. p.
Salaries of depôt establishments (including Native Doctors, Hospital Assistants, Compounders, Dressers, clerks, and menials, etc.)...	9,462 15 6	1,401 14 5	10,864 13 11
Supplies and services (including diet of patients, value of medical stores, purchase of country medicines, expenses during the prevalence of epidemics, petty construction and repairs) ...	11,336 6 6	0 7 0	11,336 13 6
Contingent charges	1,525 6 6	158 8 9	1,683 15 3
Grants to dispensaries	4,470 0 0	...	4,470 0 0
Inspector, embarkation agent, and other officers	4,800 0 0	12,441 2 8	17,241 2 8
Clerks and servants	9,541 7 1	5,128 2 10	14,669 9 11
Travelling allowance	8,432 8 10	1,260 6 4	9,692 15 2
Fees to Civil Surgeons for inspecting tea gardens	8,093 15 6	...	8,093 15 6
Miscellaneous (including rents, percentage of treasury and audit establishment, refunds, pensions)	3,465 7 0	4,229 4 11	7,694 11 11
Repatriation charges	1,321 13 1	...	1,321 13 1
Deficiency, *i.e.*, excess of payment over receipts of the Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	607 11 11*	...	607 11 11
Deficit in the Bengal portion of the funds ...	+2,885 12 11	*—2,885 12 11*	...
Grand total	65,943 8 10	21,734 2 0	87,677 10 10

* This is on account of the year 1894-95, but adjusted in the accounts for 1895-96.

In this statement, separate figuresshowing the expenditure during the year under the heads of "Fees to Civil Surgeons for inspecting tea gardens" and "Repatriation charges" have been given for the first time.

As promised in paragraph 64 of last year's report, the Chief Commissioner considered during the year the question whether the capitation fees levied from employers under section 109 of the Act were capable of reduction. It was decided to postpone taking any action in this direction until the figures for the year 1895-96 were received, in order to ascertain what effect the imposition of fees on contracts executed at Dhubri, and the granting of fees to Civil Surgeons for the inspection of tea gardens, would have upon the financial position of the Fund. It appears, from the figures given in paragraph 25 of this report, that the number of contracts executed at Dhubri in 1895 fell from 12,464 to 8,825, and no satisfactory reason has been assigned for the decrease. It is possible, however, that it may be connected with the imposition of the fee, and that there may be a further decrease in future years. This being so, and in view of the fact that the charges for the repatriation of immigrants are steadily growing, the Chief Commissioner has come to the conclusion that to reduce at the present time, to any appreciable extent, the rates levied under section 109, which furnish over half the total income of the Fund, would seriously endanger the solvency of the Fund, and he has accordingly decided to await the results of another year's working of the changes alluded to above before deciding whether action should be taken in the direction of reducing the capitation fees.

Concluding remarks.

65. In conclusion, Sir William Ward desires to congratulate employers of labour and the officers responsible for administering the labour laws on the generally satisfactory manner in which the Act, as amended in 1893, has been worked during the years 1893—95. During this period, the total labour force has increased from 461,647 to 537,312; the condition of the labourers has been good, and the relations between them and their employers satisfactory: cases of cruelty or oppression by employers have been so rare as to be practically non-existent. The immigration during this period appears to have been sufficient in quantity; and the advantages of residence in Assam to immigrants who have become acclimatised continue to be shown by the annually increasing number of time-expired immigrant settlers, especially in Cachar and Upper Assam. The health of the labour force during these years has been satisfactory, and their recorded death-rate lower than in any previous period of three years on record. On the other hand, there are undoubtedly some defects in the working of the system. There are still certain evils in the recruitment of labourers which act to the injury of employers, as well as labourers; so far as they act to the injury of the labourers, efficient control can be exercised in this province by the Administration under the increased power conferred by the Act of 1893; and the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think that these evils, so far as they act to the injury of employers, might, to a great extent, be overcome by the exercise of greater care in the selection and transport of recruits by employers and their agents in the recruiting districts. In the labour districts, the experience of these three years has brought out (1) the necessity of carefully watching new emigrants during their first year or two in Assam in respect of the healthiness of the localities in which they are employed, their tasks, and the wages earned by them; (2) the expediency of closing unhealthy gardens freely to new importations of labour generally, or of the particular classes of labourers for which they are unhealthy; and (3) the desirability of more complete sanitary control over the transit of immigrants in the Surma Valley. There are two further defects in the working of the Act: (1) the large number of desertions which have taken place during the last three years; and (2) imperfect registration of births, and of the deaths of children among the labour force. For the first of these defects, there is some excuse, as the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway has temporarily created an unusual demand for labour in the province, while the number of new coolies, amongst whom desertions usually occur, has been unusually large; the second defect is a serious

blot on the system, as carelessness in the registration of births, and of the deaths of infants and non-working children, reduces the value of the vital statistics, which, so far as the registration of the deaths of adult labourers is concerned, are probably as accurate and complete as any in India. On the whole, however, Sir William Ward has no hesitation in saying that the labour and emigration system is working satisfactorily. He considers that it would be a public calamity if objections based on sentiment, or on a comparison between the labour regulations in Assam and those in force in other provinces and countries where the conditions of labour are wholly dissimilar, were allowed to interfere prematurely with a system which, it cannot he denied, is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of an important industry,—an industry which not only offers a livelihood to some 50,000 emigrants annually, but which has done, and is still doing, so much good to the province by opening it out and developing its resources.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

E. A. GAIT,

The 24th September 1896. *Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.*

STATEMENTS.

Return showing the Statistics of the Labour Force of the

Classes of labourers.	Number remaining at the end of the year.	Additions made during				
		Imported			Otherwise	
		By contractors.	By garden sardars.	Free labourers and dependents imported direct.	Number giving contract under section 111.	Number giving contract under section 112.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	6,986	1,249	1,153	..	350	852
Non-Act labourers { Adults	58,736	..	..	7,882	..	..
Children	41,742	..	..	1,062	..	..
Total	107,464	1,249	1,153	8,944	350	852
Sylhet .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	9,415	3,956	894	..	3,433	1,442
Non-Act labourers { Adults	52,969	..	..	13,731	..	..
Children	42,473	..	..	7,869	..	..
Total	104,857	3,956	894	21,600	3,433	1,442
Surma Valley .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	16,401	5,205	2,047	..	3,783	2,294
Non-Act labourers { Adults	111,705	..	..	27,613	..	..
Children	84,215	..	..	8,931	..	..
Total	212,321	5,205	2,047	30,544	3,783	2,294
Kámrúp .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	681	88	62	..	..	1
Non-Act labourers { Adults	1,502	..	..	37	..	..
Children	1,122	..	..	53	..	..
Total	3,305	88	62	90	..	1
Darrang .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	22,930	3,964	1,626	..	4,013	1,619
Non-Act labourers { Adults	14,264	..	..	448	..	..
Children	17,248	..	..	1,885	..	..
Total	54,442	3,964	1,626	2,333	4,013	1,619
Nowgong .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	4,124	1,551	329	..	524	129
Non-Act labourers { Adults	6,519	..	..	171	..	..
Children	5,908	..	..	489	..	..
Total	16,551	1,551	329	660	524	129
Sibságar .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	37,059	4,490	2,808	..	3,176	4,825
Non-Act labourers { Adults	31,784	..	..	1,297	..	..
Children	44,815	..	..	2,526	..	..
Total	113,658	4,490	2,808	3,823	3,176	4,825
Lakhimpur .. .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	35,355	6,549	2,116	..	3,389	2,574
Non-Act labourers { Adults	26,598	..	..	2,100	..	..
Children	31,754	..	..	2,452	..	..
Total	93,707	6,549	2,116	4,552	3,389	2,574
Brahmaputra Valley .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	109,149	16,642	6,941	..	11,102	9,148
Non-Act labourers { Adults	80,667	..	..	4,053	..	..
Children	100,847	..	..	7,405	..	..
Total	281,663	16,642	6,941	11,458	11,102	9,148
Total for the Province .. { Act-I labourers (adults)	116,550	21,847	8,988	..	14,885	11,442
Non-Act labourers { Adults	192,372	..	..	25,666	..	..
Children	185,062	..	..	16,336	..	..
Grand total	493,984*	21,847	8,988	42,002	14,885	11,442

* The difference of 3 labourers between this entry and that shown in column 31 of the Report for 1894 against the heading "Grand
were not reported in the preceding half-year

Tea gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1895.

the year 1895.								Deductions made during the year 1895.			
than by importation.										Deaths.	
Received from other gardens.	Recovered after having been struck off as deserters.	Remaining after expiry of contracts.	Otherwise obtained.	Births.	By transfer to adults from minors.	Total added.	Total of columns 2 and 14.	Transferred to other gardens.	Left the garden with permission.	First half-year.	Second half-year.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
47	26	..	..	..	..	3,677	10,663	278	..	234	296
3,247	..	2,881	3,357	..	1,377	18,744	77,480	2,854	4,234	1,151	579
304	..	..	474	2,407	..	4,247	45,989	245	986	542	686
3,598	26	2,881	3,831	2,407	1,377	26,668	1,34,132	3,377	5,220	1,927	1,555
446	39	..	..	..	..	10,210	19,625	491	..	225	449
1,665	..	4,129	4,608	..	1,129	25,262	78,231	736	3,891	1,079	1,238
675	..	..	1,346	2,784	..	12,674	55,147	479	1,644	554	600
2,786	39	4,129	5,954	2,784	1,129	48,146	153,003	1,706	5,535	1,858	2,278
493	65	..	..	..	..	13,887	30,288	769	..	459	730
4,912	..	7,010	7,965	..	2,506	44,006	155,711	3,590	8,125	2,230	1,817
979	..	..	1,820	5,191	..	16,921	101,136	724	2,630	1,096	1,286
6,384	65	7,010	9,785	5,191	2,506	74,814	287,135	5,083	10,755	3,785	3,833
3	19	..	..	..	..	173	854	3	..	38	18
8	..	151	830	..	19	1,045	2,517	8	418	28	29
..	..	..	168	128	..	349	1,471	..	265	28	17
11	19	151	998	128	19	1,567	4,872	11	683	94	64
224	134	..	..	..	..	11,580	31,510	224	..	643	742
210	..	5,151	6,179	..	498	12,486	26,750	210	5,296	172	159
63	..	..	449	1,044	..	3,441	20,689	63	805	133	156
497	134	5,151	6,628	1,044	498	27,507	81,949	497	6,101	948	1,057
258	18	..	..	..	..	2,809	6,933	255	..	154	157
121	..	667	2,532	..	192	3,583	10,102	75	2,489	161	172
79	..	..	183	318	..	1,069	6,977	91	529	100	87
458	18	667	2,715	318	192	7,461	24,012	421	3,018	415	416
639	253	..	..	..	..	16,191	53,250	639	..	740	902
269	..	7,556	5,824	..	852	15,798	47,582	265	5,821	430	497
236	..	..	362	2,800	..	5,924	50,739	238	1,258	426	602
1,144	253	7,556	6,186	2,800	852	37,913	151,571	1,142	7,079	1,596	2,001
605	302	..	..	..	..	15,535	50,890	291	..	832	901
224	..	6,540	4,915	..	1,426	15,205	41,803	170	4,673	448	483
187	..	..	428	2,211	..	5,278	37,032	43	1,680	356	511
1,016	302	6,540	5,343	2,211	1,426	36,018	129,725	504	6,353	1,636	1,895
1,729	726	..	..	..	..	46,288	146,437	1,412	..	2,407	2,720
832	..	19,965	20,280	..	2,987	48,117	128,784	723	18,697	1,239	1,340
565	..	..	1,590	6,501	..	16,061	116,908	435	4,537	1,043	1,373
3,126	726	19,965	21,870	6,501	2,987	110,466	392,129	2,575	23,234	4,689	5,433
2,222	791	..	..	..	..	60,175	176,725	2,181	..	2,866	3,450
5,744	..	26,975	28,245	..	5,493	92,123	284,495	4,318	26,822	3,469	3,157
1,544	..	..	3,410	11,692	..	32,982	218,044	1,159	7,167	2,139	2,659
9,510	791	26,975	31,655	11,692	5,493	185,280	677,264	7,658	33,989	8,474	9,266

total " is due to the fact that during the first half-year of 1895, 3 Act coolies were found in the Malnicherra garden in the district of Sylhet, who and have been added in this stateme nt.

Two contracts cancelled in Cachar have not been included in this return.

Return showing the Statistics of the Labour Force of the

Classes of labourers.		Deductions made during					
		Desertions.		By transfer from minors to adults.	Number giving agreements under section 111.	Number giving agreements under section 112.	Cancelment under sections 111A, 111B, 139, 140, 140A or 177.
		First half-year.	Second half-year.				
		19		20	21	22	23
Cachar	Act-I labourers (adults)	427	397	..	..	..	..
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	1,820	2,184	..	192	832	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	77	283	1,377	..	..	..
Total		2,324	2,774	1,377	192	832	..
Sylhet	Act-I labourers (adults)	621	612	..	..	..	..
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	2,645	2,178	..	2,421	1,167	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	1,158	1,177	1,129	..	..	..
Total		4,424	3,967	1,129	2,421	1,167	..
Surma Valley	Act-I labourers (adults)	1,048	919	..	..	..	..
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	4,465	4,362	..	2,613	1,999	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	1,235	1,460	2,506	..	..	..
Total		6,748	6,741	2,506	2,613	1,999	..
Kámrúp	Act-I labourers (adults)	22	45	..	..	..	..
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	66	90	..	..	..	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	21	28	19	..	..	..
Total		109	163	19	..	..	..
Darrang	Act-I labourers (adults)	502	470	..	..	..	4
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	377	410	..	2,807	1,294	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	104	140	498	..	..	..
Total		983	1,020	498	2,807	1,294	4
Nowgong	Act-I labourers (adults)	158	112	..	..	..	2
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	131	88	..	353	88	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	75	57	192	..	..	..
Total		364	266	192	353	88	2
Sibságar	Act-I labourers (adults)	577	551	..	..	..	8
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	547	353	..	1,937	2,758	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	172	211	852	..	..	..
Total		1,296	1,115	852	1,937	2,758	8
Lakhimpur	Act-I labourers (adults)	578	552	..	..	..	4
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	422	532	..	2,642	2,296	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	262	239	1,426	..	..	..
Total		1,262	1,323	1,426	2,642	2,296	4
Brahmaputra Valley	Act-I labourers (adults)	1,837	1,731	..	..	..	18
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	1,543	1,481	..	7,739	6,436	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	634	675	2,987	..	..	..
Total		4,014	3,887	2,987	7,739	6,436	18
Total for the Province	Act-I labourers (adults)	2,885	2,650	..	..	..	18
	Non-Act labourers — Adults	6,008	5,813	..	10,352	8,435	..
	Non-Act labourers — Children	1,869	2,135	5,493	..	..	..
Grand total		10,762	10,628	5,493	10,352	8,435	18*

* This includes 16 contracts cancelled under Section 11A.

Tea gardens in the Province of Assam during the year 1895—continued.

the year 1895—*continued.*										
Cancelment for permanent unfitness under section 122.	Cancelled under section 129.	Suspended under section 130.	Efflux of time, section 141.	Redemption, section 142.	Number dissolved by mutual consent.	Total deducted.	Number remaining at the end of the year 1895.	Strength on 1st July 1895.	Annual strength.		Death-rate per mille.
									First half-year.	Second half-year.	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		34
28	..	..	2,234	1	19	3,818	6,845	6,797	6,891	6,821	76·4
..	..	..	..	..	..	13,846	63,634	61,976	60,356	62,805	28·2
..	..	..	..	..	..	4,196	41,793	42,763	42,252	42,278	29·0
28	..	..	2,234	1	19	21,860	112,272	111,536	109,500	111,904	31·3
373	..	..	5,078	..	374	8,214	11,411	12,039	10,727	11,725	58·4
..	..	..	..	..	..	15,355	62,876	62,028	57,498	62,452	38·5
..	..	..	..	..	..	6,741	48,406	47,486	44,979	47,946	24·8
373	..	..	5,078	..	374	30,310	122,693	121,553	113,205	122,123	35·0
401	..	..	7,312	1	393	12,032	18,256	18,836	17,618	18,246	65·4
..	..	..	..	..	..	29,201	126,510	124,004	117,854	125,257	33·4
..	..	..	..	..	..	10,937	90,199	90,249	87,232	90,224	26·8
401	..	..	7,312	1	393	52,170	234,965	233,089	222,705	234,027	33·4
4	78	..	79	..	6	293	561	635	658	598	87·8
..	..	..	..	..	..	639	1,908	1,840	1,671	1,874	32·1
..	..	..	..	..	..	378	1,093	1,139	1,130	1,116	39·9
4	78	..	79	..	6	1,310	3,562	3,614	3,459	3,588	45·0
169	..	..	6,841	..	67	9,662	24,848	24,415	23,672	24,631	57·2
..	..	..	..	..	..	10,725	16,025	17,040	15,652	16,532	20·5
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,899	18,790	18,581	17,914	18,685	15·7
169	..	..	6,841	..	67	22,286	59,663	60,036	57,239	59,849	34·1
130	..	..	724	..	20	1,713	5,220	4,912	4,518	5,066	64·9
..	..	..	..	..	..	3,565	6,537	8,117	7,318	7,327	45·4
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,131	5,846	5,898	5,903	5,872	31·7
130	..	..	724	..	20	6,409	17,603	18,927	17,739	18,265	46·1
264	164	..	10,198	2	883	14,928	38,322	38,317	36,688	37,319	44·2
..	..	..	..	..	..	12,608	34,974	39,035	35,409	37,004	25·5
..	..	..	..	..	..	3,759	46,980	46,316	45,565	46,648	22·2
264	164	..	10,198	2	883	31,295	120,276	121,668	117,663	120,972	30·0
309	..	..	8,618	5	209	12,299	38,591	37,336	36,345	37,963	46·6
..	..	..	..	..	..	11,666	30,137	30,705	28,651	31,420	31·5
..	..	..	..	..	..	4,517	32,515	32,644	32,199	32,579	26·6
309	..	..	8,618	5	209	28,482	101,243	100,685	97,196	100,964	35·5
876	242	..	26,460	7	1,185	38,895	107,542	103,615	101,882	105,578	49·4
..	..	..	..	..	..	39,203	89,581	96,737	88,702	93,159	28·3
..	..	..	..	..	..	11,684	105,224	104,578	102,712	104,901	23·2
876	242	..	26,460	7	1,185	89,782	302,347	304,930	293,296	303,638	33·9
1,277	242	..	33,772	8	1,578	50,927	125,798	122,451	119,500	124,124	52·8
..	..	..	..	..	..	68,404	216,091	220,741	206,556	218,416	31·2
..	..	..	..	..	..	22,621	195,423	194,827	189,944	195,125	24·9
1,277	242	..	33,772	8	1,578	141,952	537,312	538,019	516,001	537,665	33·6

Two contracts cancelled in Cachar have not been included in this return.

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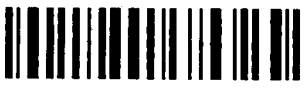
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